

Appendix A: Pre-Trip Interviews

There were two different versions of the pre-trip interview as part of the information about aircraft experiment. Both versions are included in this appendix.

VERSION 1 (EXPERIMENTAL CONDITION)

Pre-interview information:

Date/Time (computer recorded)

Introduction and request to participate.

I'm working for the Cascadia Field Station of the U.S. Geological Survey. In conjunction with the National Park Service, we are doing a survey of Denali backpackers. The information we are collecting is important because it will help managers and planners maximize the quality of visitor experiences in this area. This survey is voluntary and any information you provide is confidential.

This survey has four parts because we are interested in your experiences across the course of your trip. The first part is a short interview with less than 10 questions that takes 5 minutes or less. The second part is a one-page daily experience diary that you fill out on each night of your backpacking trip. It takes about 5 minutes on the first day, and 3 minutes per day after that. The third part is another short interview that takes about 3 minutes and will be done here at the visitor center, and the last part is a questionnaire that you can take with you and mail back to us. It takes about 20 minutes. Your total time commitment is estimated to be 39 minutes.

1. Would you be willing to participate in the survey?

NO → Thank you for your time. Have a nice visit in Denali.

YES → Thank you, Here is a statement about the confidentiality of your responses. *(The card will contain text concerning the Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act compliance, and also a burden estimate statement.)*

Appendix A: Pre-Trip Interviews

Throughout the remainder of this interview, I will be asking you about aircraft. For the purposes of this survey, the term aircraft includes jets, propeller planes, & helicopters.

1. Did you know that aircraft are sometimes heard or seen flying over Denali?

NO

YES → 1.1 How did you learn about the presence of aircraft at Denali?
(Check as many as reported. Probe by asking "Any others?" if they stop at one source.)

1. PARK WEB SITE
2. PRIOR VISITS TO DENALI
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE/ALASKA EXPERIENCE
4. FRIENDS OR RELATIVES
5. TRAVEL GUIDE/TOUR BOOK
6. NEWSPAPER/MAGAZINE
7. MAPS/BROCHURES
8. RADIO/TELEVISION
9. DON'T REMEMBER WHERE
10. OTHER (Please specify: _____)

2. During a typical day on this trip, how many times do you expect to hear or see aircraft?

NUMBER OF TIMES _____ Record "no expectations" if respondent gives a "couldn't say/don't know" answer and persists after a probe.

3. During a typical day on this trip, how many times would you prefer to hear or see aircraft?

NUMBER OF TIMES _____ If respondent can't provide a number, ask for differentiation between a "no preferences/don't care" answer and a "have a preference but can't provide a number answer."

Appendix A: Pre-Trip Interviews

4. When you planned this visit to Denali, did you take into consideration the possibility that you might hear or see aircraft flying over the area?

NO

YES → 4.1 Did the possibility of encountering aircraft affect any aspect of how you planned your visit to Denali?

NO

YES → 4.2 How did the possibility of encountering aircraft affect your decision to visit Denali?

(Check as many as respondent reports. Probe by asking

"Any

others?" if they stop at one effect.)

1. Came to see the aircraft?
2. Came at a different time of day than would otherwise?
3. Came on a different day of the week?
4. Planned to do different activities in Denali?
5. Planned to visit a different area of Denali?
6. Other effects not described *(Please specify below.)*
7. Don't know

The reason for asking about aircraft is because park managers are interested in backpackers' reactions to aircraft. Currently, aircraft are a common form of transportation in Alaska. They are commonly used for utilitarian and recreational activities in remote areas. Please listen to the following points that give you some information about aircraft use at Denali.

- As tourism has increased in the Denali NP area, several flightseeing companies have begun to fly visitors across the park to view Mt. McKinley. These companies use both standard airplanes and helicopters.
- In the area north of the Alaska Range, most flights originate from the area of McKinley Village or Healy, both along Highway 3 near the Riley Creek entrance area.
- Most flights fly in a corridor south of the park road and north of the crest of the Alaska Range.
- In recent years use has increased to the point that there can be dozens of flights a day passing through this corridor in good weather. Given the long day length during much of the summer, flights can be very early or very late.
- Aircraft are requested to stay 2000' Above Ground Level, but there is no requirement that they do so, and they frequently fly at less than this recommended level.
- Alaska has been excluded from any laws that would allow restrictions on air traffic over national park areas.

5. That concludes the first part of our survey project. Here is the diary booklet you will use in the second part (write identification number on diary cover). Each page covers one day of your trip. Please fill it out each night after you make camp, and on the last day please answer the relevant questions before you return your bear canister. We will be attempting to contact you when you return your bear canister to this facility. However, in case we can not contact you at that time, there will be a box provided at the bear canister return area where you can drop off the diary.

If we do not contact you when you drop off your bear canister, we would still like to send you the mail-back questionnaire. Would you please provide your name and address so we can send it to you by mail? This information will be confidential. It will be used only for this survey and will be destroyed after the project is completed.

Name _____
Street address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip/Postal code _____
Country _____

VERSION 2 (CONTROL CONDITION)

Pre-interview information:

Date/Time (computer recorded)

Introduction and request to participate.

I'm working for the Cascadia Field Station of the U.S. Geological Survey. In conjunction with the National Park Service, we are doing a survey of Denali backpackers. The information we are collecting is important because it will help managers and planners maximize the quality of visitor experiences in this area. This survey is voluntary and any information you provide is confidential.

This survey has three parts because we are interested in your experiences across the course of your trip. The first part is a one-page daily experience diary that you fill out on each night of your backpacking trip. It takes about 5 minutes on the first day, and 3 minutes per day after that. The second part is a short interview that takes about 3 minutes and will be done here at the visitor center, and the last part is a questionnaire that you can take with you and mail back to us after you fill it out. It takes about 20 minutes.

1. Would you be willing to participate in the survey?

NO → Thank you for your time. Have a nice visit in Denali.

YES → 1.1 Here is the diary booklet you will use in the survey (write identification number on diary cover). Each page covers one day of your trip. Please fill it out each night after you make camp, and on the last day please answer the relevant questions before you return your bear canister. We will be attempting to contact you when you return your bear canister to this facility. However, in case we can not contact you at that time, there will be a box provided at the bear canister return area where you can drop off the diary.

If we do not contact you when you drop off your bear canister, we would still like to send you the mail-back questionnaire. Would you please provide your name and address so we can send it to you by mail? This information will be confidential. It will be used only for this survey and will be destroyed after the project is completed.

Name _____
Street address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip/Postal code _____
Country _____

Appendix B: Diary, Version 1

Appendix B: Diary, Version 1

**Daily Experience Diary:
Denali National Park
Backpacker Survey**



Denali Backpacker Survey
Cascadia Field Station
USGS/BRD/FRESC
College of Forest Resources – Box 352100
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-2100

Version 1

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:

16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Please do not put your name or that of any member of your group on the questionnaire. Data collected through visitor surveys may be disclosed to the Department of Justice when relevant to litigation or anticipated litigation, or to appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies responsible for investigating or prosecuting a violation of law. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Burden estimate statement:

Public reporting burden for completing the Daily Experience Diary is estimated to take an average of 5 minutes on the first day, and 3 minutes per day thereafter. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503; and to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administrative Program Center, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Dear Visitor,

A variety of people visit Denali National Park and Preserve each year. They come from many different places and engage in a variety of recreational activities. As part of our effort to provide high quality recreational opportunities we have asked the Cascadia Field Station of the United States Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division to conduct a survey of backpackers.

You have been selected as part of a sample of backpackers to participate in the survey. In order that the results be truly representative of all Denali backpackers, it is important that you take the time to complete this daily experience diary as instructed.

Please do not write your name or the name of anyone in your party on this diary booklet, in order that the responses be completely anonymous.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this study. I hope that you enjoy your visit.

Sincerely,

Superintendent

DAILY EXPERIENCE DIARY

This booklet consists of daily reports. Please complete one as part of your routine after making camp on each evening of your trip. For example, you might complete your daily entry every evening right after dinner. Completing each report probably won't take longer than 5 minutes a day. If you miss a day, please fill in the report for that day at the earliest opportunity.

After you have boarded the bus or reached the visitor center at the end of your hike, please fill out a report for your last day. You can then return the diary booklet at the hiker information/reservation desk or put it in the box near the bear-canister return labeled "Backcountry Diaries".

Detailed Instructions/Example Report

The example shows how a backpacker might fill out each question on the daily experience diary. Detailed instructions printed in *italics* are included for most questions. Please review the example report and instructions carefully before completing your first daily report. Also, please refer back to them when completing the remaining reports as needed.

Question 1

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date 8/1 Time 9 a.m./p.m.

Please indicate the date and time when you are making the report.

Question 2

2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date 8/1 Time 9 a.m./p.m.

Please indicate the date and time for the end of the period you are describing. Ideally, this will be the same as in Question 1. However, this question allows you to let us know if for some reason you were not able to fill out a report at the end of every day.

Question 3

3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): 12 (see map)

Look at the included map to find where you were during the reported time period.

Question 4

4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: 12 (see map)

Look at the included map to find where you are camped.

Question 5

5. How many different hiking parties did you see today?

1

A hiking party consists of one or more persons who are hiking together. Hiking parties could be either backpackers or day-hikers. If you saw the same party more than once, count them only once.

Question 6

6. How many times did you interact with hiking parties today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)

1

Here again, hiking parties could be groups of either backpackers or day-hikers. However, if you interacted with the same party more than once, count the total number of interactions.

Question 7

7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (List number that describes your feelings)

1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none
2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less
3. Saw about the right number
4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more
5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more

3

Question 8

8. How many times did you hear or see aircraft today?

4

Please include all types of aircraft including helicopters. If the same aircraft flew over more than once, count each overflight separately. If you saw aircraft but can't recall the number put a '?' in the box.

Question 9

9. How long was the total time that you could hear or see aircraft?
(In minutes.)

10

Please make your best estimate of the total time that aircraft were visible or audible. If you didn't hear or see any planes, answer "0" and skip to Question 12. If you can not estimate the time, put a '?' in the box.

Question 10

10. What kind(s) of aircraft flew over? (List number of each type you identified)

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Propeller plane | 3. Jet |
| 2. Helicopter | 4. Other |

1, 2

Please list the types of aircraft you could identify. If you could not identify any aircraft, put a '?' in the box.

Question 11

11. Which of the following best describes how loud the sound of the aircraft was at its loudest point? *(List number that describes the sound)*

1. I couldn't hear the aircraft.
2. Background sound where you could still talk in a normal voice
3. Conspicuous sound where you would have to speak loudly to be heard
4. Dominant sound where you would have to shout to be heard
5. Overwhelming sound where you couldn't even hear shouting

3

Please recall the loudest aircraft sound you heard. Rate the loudness of that sound using the 5-point scale.

Question 12

12. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?

1

Hiking parties might include larger groups using more than one tent. If multiple tents are pitched at the same site, count that group as a single party.

Question 13

13. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? *(List number)*

1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none
2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less
3. Saw about the right number
4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more
5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more

1

Remember, this booklet consists of daily reports. Please complete one as part of your routine after making camp on each evening of your trip.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR DIARY BOOKLET AT THE VISITOR CENTER DESK OR PUT IT IN THE BOX NEAR THE BEAR-CANISTER RETURN LABELED "BACKCOUNTRY DIARIES".

Please return only the diary booklet. The pencil and plastic bag are yours to keep or to dispose of properly.

Day 1

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m.
2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m.
3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): _____ (see map)
4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: _____ (see map)

If you can not recall the answer to a question, or have no opinion, put a question mark "?" in the box on the right.	Specific Answer
5. How many hiking parties did you see today?	
6. How many hiking parties did you interact with today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	
7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (<i>List number that describes your feelings</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	
8. How many times did you hear or see aircraft today?	
9. How long was the total time that you could hear or see aircraft? (In minutes.)	
10. What kind(s) of aircraft flew over? (<i>List number of each type you identified</i>) 1. Propeller plane 3. Jet 2. Helicopter 4. Other	
11. Which of the following best describes how loud the sound of the aircraft was at its loudest point? (<i>List number that describes the sound</i>) 1. I couldn't hear the aircraft. 2. Background sound where you could still talk in a normal voice 3. Conspicuous sound where you would have to speak loudly to be heard 4. Dominant sound where you would have to shout to be heard 5. Overwhelming sound where you couldn't even hear shouting	
12. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?	
13. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (<i>List number</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	

Day 2

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m.
2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m.
3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): _____ (see map)
4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: _____ (see map)

If you can not recall the answer to a question, or have no opinion, put a question mark "?" in the box on the right.	Specific Answer
5. How many hiking parties did you see today?	
6. How many hiking parties did you interact with today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	
7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (<i>List number that describes your feelings</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	
8. How many times did you hear or see aircraft today?	
9. How long was the total time that you could hear or see aircraft? (In minutes.)	
10. What kind(s) of aircraft flew over? (<i>List number of each type you identified</i>) 1. Propeller plane 3. Jet 2. Helicopter 4. Other	
11. Which of the following best describes how loud the sound of the aircraft was at its loudest point? (<i>List number that describes the sound</i>) 1. I couldn't hear the aircraft. 2. Background sound where you could still talk in a normal voice 3. Conspicuous sound where you would have to speak loudly to be heard 4. Dominant sound where you would have to shout to be heard 5. Overwhelming sound where you couldn't even hear shouting	
12. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?	
13. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (<i>List number</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	

Day 3

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m.
2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m.
3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): _____ (see map)
4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: _____ (see map)

If you can not recall the answer to a question, or have no opinion, put a question mark "?" in the box on the right.	Specific Answer
5. How many hiking parties did you see today?	
6. How many hiking parties did you interact with today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	
7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (<i>List number that describes your feelings</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	
8. How many times did you hear or see aircraft today?	
9. How long was the total time that you could hear or see aircraft? (In minutes.)	
10. What kind(s) of aircraft flew over? (<i>List number of each type you identified</i>) 1. Propeller plane 3. Jet 2. Helicopter 4. Other	
11. Which of the following best describes how loud the sound of the aircraft was at its loudest point? (<i>List number that describes the sound</i>) 1. I couldn't hear the aircraft. 2. Background sound where you could still talk in a normal voice 3. Conspicuous sound where you would have to speak loudly to be heard 4. Dominant sound where you would have to shout to be heard 5. Overwhelming sound where you couldn't even hear shouting	
12. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?	
13. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (<i>List number</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	

Day 4

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m.
2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m.
3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): _____ (see map)
4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: _____ (see map)

If you can not recall the answer to a question, or have no opinion, put a question mark "?" in the box on the right.	Specific Answer
5. How many hiking parties did you see today?	
6. How many hiking parties did you interact with today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	
7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (<i>List number that describes your feelings</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	
8. How many times did you hear or see aircraft today?	
9. How long was the total time that you could hear or see aircraft? (In minutes.)	
10. What kind(s) of aircraft flew over? (<i>List number of each type you identified</i>) 1. Propeller plane 3. Jet 2. Helicopter 4. Other	
11. Which of the following best describes how loud the sound of the aircraft was at its loudest point? (<i>List number that describes the sound</i>) 1. I couldn't hear the aircraft. 2. Background sound where you could still talk in a normal voice 3. Conspicuous sound where you would have to speak loudly to be heard 4. Dominant sound where you would have to shout to be heard 5. Overwhelming sound where you couldn't even hear shouting	
12. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?	
13. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (<i>List number</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	

Day 5

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m.
2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m.
3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): _____ (see map)
4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: _____ (see map)

If you can not recall the answer to a question, or have no opinion, put a question mark "?" in the box on the right.	Specific Answer
5. How many hiking parties did you see today?	
6. How many hiking parties did you interact with today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	
7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (<i>List number that describes your feelings</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	
8. How many times did you hear or see aircraft today?	
9. How long was the total time that you could hear or see aircraft? (In minutes.)	
10. What kind(s) of aircraft flew over? (<i>List number of each type you identified</i>) 1. Propeller plane 3. Jet 2. Helicopter 4. Other	
11. Which of the following best describes how loud the sound of the aircraft was at its loudest point? (<i>List number that describes the sound</i>) 1. I couldn't hear the aircraft. 2. Background sound where you could still talk in a normal voice 3. Conspicuous sound where you would have to speak loudly to be heard 4. Dominant sound where you would have to shout to be heard 5. Overwhelming sound where you couldn't even hear shouting	
12. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?	
13. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (<i>List number</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	

Day 6

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m.
2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m.
3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): _____ (see map)
4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: _____ (see map)

If you can not recall the answer to a question, or have no opinion, put a question mark "?" in the box on the right.	Specific Answer
5. How many hiking parties did you see today?	
6. How many hiking parties did you interact with today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	
7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (<i>List number that describes your feelings</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	
8. How many times did you hear or see aircraft today?	
9. How long was the total time that you could hear or see aircraft? (In minutes.)	
10. What kind(s) of aircraft flew over? (<i>List number of each type you identified</i>) 1. Propeller plane 3. Jet 2. Helicopter 4. Other	
11. Which of the following best describes how loud the sound of the aircraft was at its loudest point? (<i>List number that describes the sound</i>) 1. I couldn't hear the aircraft. 2. Background sound where you could still talk in a normal voice 3. Conspicuous sound where you would have to speak loudly to be heard 4. Dominant sound where you would have to shout to be heard 5. Overwhelming sound where you couldn't even hear shouting	
12. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?	
13. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (<i>List number</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	

Day 7

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m.
2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date _____ Time _____ a.m./p.m.
3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): _____ (see map)
4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: _____ (see map)

If you can not recall the answer to a question, or have no opinion, put a question mark "?" in the box on the right.	Specific Answer
5. How many hiking parties did you see today?	
6. How many hiking parties did you interact with today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	
7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (<i>List number that describes your feelings</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	
8. How many times did you hear or see aircraft today?	
9. How long was the total time that you could hear or see aircraft? (In minutes.)	
10. What kind(s) of aircraft flew over? (<i>List number of each type you identified</i>) 1. Propeller plane 3. Jet 2. Helicopter 4. Other	
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12. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?	
13. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (<i>List number</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	

Appendix C: Diary, Version 2

**Daily Experience Diary:
Denali National Park
Backpacker Survey**



Denali Backpacker Survey
Cascadia Field Station
USGS/BRD/FRESC
College of Forest Resources – Box 352100
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-2100

Version 2

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:

16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Please do not put your name or that of any member of your group on the questionnaire. Data collected through visitor surveys may be disclosed to the Department of Justice when relevant to litigation or anticipated litigation, or to appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies responsible for investigating or prosecuting a violation of law. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Burden estimate statement:

Public reporting burden for completing the Daily Experience Diary is estimated to take an average of 5 minutes on the first day, and 3 minutes per day thereafter. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503; and to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administrative Program Center, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Dear Visitor,

A variety of people visit Denali National Park and Preserve each year. They come from many different places and engage in a variety of recreational activities. As part of our effort to provide high quality recreational opportunities we have asked the Cascadia Field Station of the United States Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division to conduct a survey of backpackers.

You have been selected as part of a sample of backpackers to participate in the survey. In order that the results be truly representative of all Denali backpackers, it is important that you take the time to complete this daily experience diary as instructed.

Please do not write your name or the name of anyone in your party on this diary booklet, in order that the responses be completely anonymous.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this study. I hope that you enjoy your visit.

Sincerely,

Superintendent

DAILY EXPERIENCE DIARY

This booklet consists of daily reports. Please complete one as part of your routine after making camp on each evening of your trip. For example, you might complete your daily entry every evening right after dinner. Completing each report probably won't take longer than 5 minutes a day. If you miss a day, please fill in the report for that day at the earliest opportunity.

After you have boarded the bus or reached the visitor center at the end of your hike, please fill out a report for your last day. You can then return the diary booklet at the hiker information/reservation desk or put it in the box near the bear-canister return labeled "Backcountry Diaries".

Detailed Instructions/Example Report

The example shows how a backpacker might fill out each question on the daily experience diary. Detailed instructions printed in *italics* are included for most questions. Please review the example report and instructions carefully before completing your first daily report. Also, please refer back to them when completing the remaining reports as needed.

Question 1

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date 8/1 Time 9 a.m./p.m.

Please indicate the date and time when you are making the report.

Question 2

2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date 8/1 Time 9 a.m./p.m.

Please indicate the date and time for the end of the period you are describing. Ideally, this will be the same as in Question 1. However, this question allows you to let us know if for some reason you were not able to fill out a report at the end of every day.

Question 3

3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): 12 (see map)

Look at the included map to find where you were during the reported time period.

Question 4

4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: 12 (see map)

Look at the included map to find where you are camped.

Question 5

5. How many different hiking parties did you see today, including park rangers?

1

A hiking party consists of one or more persons who are hiking together. Hiking parties could be either backpackers or day-hikers. If you saw the same party more than once, count them only once.

Question 6

6. How many times did you interact with hiking parties today, including park rangers? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)

1

Here again, hiking parties could be groups of either backpackers or day-hikers. However, if you interacted with the same party more than once, count the total number of interactions.

Question 7

7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (List number that describes your feelings)

1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none
2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less
3. Saw about the right number
4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more
5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more

3

Question 8

8. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?

1

Hiking parties might include larger groups using more than one tent. If multiple tents are pitched at the same site, count that group as a single party.

Question 9

9. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (List number)

1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none
2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less
3. Saw about the right number
4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more
5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more

1

Question 10	
10. How many different park rangers did you see today?	0
<i>If you saw the same park ranger more than once, count them only once.</i>	

Question 11	
11. How many times did you interact with park rangers today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	0
<i>If you interacted with the same park ranger more than once, count the total number of interactions.</i>	

Remember, this booklet consists of daily reports. Please complete one as part of your routine after making camp on each evening of your trip.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR DIARY BOOKLET AT THE VISITOR CENTER DESK OR PUT IT IN THE BOX NEAR THE BEAR-CANISTER RETURN LABELED "BACKCOUNTRY DIARIES".

Please return only the diary booklet. The pencil and plastic bag are yours to keep or to dispose of properly.

Day 1

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date 8/1 Time 9 a.m./p.m.
2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date 7/30 Time 9 a.m./p.m.
3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): _____ (see map)
4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: _____ (see map)

If you can not recall the answer to a question, or have no opinion, put a question mark "?" in the box on the right.	Specific Answer
5. How many different hiking parties did you see today, including park rangers?	
6. How many times did you interact with hiking parties today, including park rangers? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	
7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (<i>List number that describes your feelings</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	
8. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?	
9. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (<i>List number</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	
10. How many different park rangers did you see today?	
11. How many times did you interact with park rangers today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	

Day 2

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date 8/1 Time 9 a.m./p.m
2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date 7/30 Time 9 a.m./p.m.
3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): _____ (see map)
4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: _____ (see map)

If you can not recall the answer to a question, or have no opinion, put a question mark "?" in the box on the right.	Specific Answer
5. How many different hiking parties did you see today, including park rangers?	
6. How many times did you interact with hiking parties today, including park rangers? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	
7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (<i>List number that describes your feelings</i>) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more 	
8. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?	
9. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (<i>List number</i>) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more 	
10. How many different park rangers did you see today?	
11. How many times did you interact with park rangers today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	

Day 3

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date 8/1 Time 9 a.m./p.m.
2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date 7/30 Time 9 a.m./p.m.
3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): _____ (see map)
4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: _____ (see map)

If you can not recall the answer to a question, or have no opinion, put a question mark "?" in the box on the right.	Specific Answer
5. How many different hiking parties did you see today, including park rangers?	
6. How many times did you interact with hiking parties today, including park rangers? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	
7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (<i>List number that describes your feelings</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	
8. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?	
9. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (<i>List number</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	
10. How many different park rangers did you see today?	
11. How many times did you interact with park rangers today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	

Day 4

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date 8/1 Time 9 a.m./p.m.
2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date 7/30 Time 9 a.m./p.m.
3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): _____ (see map)
4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: _____ (see map)

If you can not recall the answer to a question, or have no opinion, put a question mark "?" in the box on the right.	Specific Answer
5. How many different hiking parties did you see today, including park rangers?	
6. How many times did you interact with hiking parties today, including park rangers? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	
7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (<i>List number that describes your feelings</i>) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more 	
8. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?	
9. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (<i>List number</i>) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more 	
10. How many different park rangers did you see today?	
11. How many times did you interact with park rangers today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	

Day 5

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date 8/1 Time 9 a.m./p.m.
2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date 7/30 Time 9 a.m./p.m.
3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): _____ (see map)
4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: _____ (see map)

If you can not recall the answer to a question, or have no opinion, put a question mark "?" in the box on the right.	Specific Answer
5. How many different hiking parties did you see today, including park rangers?	
6. How many times did you interact with hiking parties today, including park rangers? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	
7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (<i>List number that describes your feelings</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	
8. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?	
9. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (<i>List number</i>) 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more	
10. How many different park rangers did you see today?	
11. How many times did you interact with park rangers today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	

Day 6

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date 8/1 Time 9 a.m./p.m.
2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date 7/30 Time 9 a.m./p.m.
3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): _____ (see map)
4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: _____ (see map)

If you can not recall the answer to a question, or have no opinion, put a question mark "?" in the box on the right.	Specific Answer
5. How many different hiking parties did you see today, including park rangers?	
6. How many times did you interact with hiking parties today, including park rangers? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	
7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (<i>List number that describes your feelings</i>) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more 	
8. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?	
9. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (<i>List number</i>) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more 	
10. How many different park rangers did you see today?	
11. How many times did you interact with park rangers today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	

Day 7

1. The date and time I am making this report is: Date 8/1 Time 9 a.m./p.m.
2. I am reporting about the time period ending: Date 7/30 Time 9 a.m./p.m.
3. Today we hiked in Zone(s): _____ (see map)
4. Our camp tonight is in Zone: _____ (see map)

If you can not recall the answer to a question, or have no opinion, put a question mark "?" in the box on the right.	Specific Answer
5. How many different hiking parties did you see today, including park rangers?	
6. How many times did you interact with hiking parties today, including park rangers? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	
7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (<i>List number that describes your feelings</i>) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more 	
8. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today?	
9. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (<i>List number</i>) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less 3. Saw about the right number 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more 	
10. How many different park rangers did you see today?	
11. How many times did you interact with park rangers today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal)	

APPENDIX D: Post-hike Interview

It was the intention to contact all hikers upon their return from the backcountry and conduct the following interview. Some hikers, however, returned late at night when the visitor center was closed or did not stop by the survey workers. These hikers were sent a mail version of this interview which is included after the interview schedule.

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Pre-interview information:

Date/Time (computer recorded); Identification number from diary booklet cover.

Introduction.

Thank you for completing the daily experience diary. Now we would like to ask you just a few questions about aircraft. For the purposes of these questions, the term aircraft includes propeller planes, helicopters & jets.

Before we begin, we wish to emphasize that your responses are voluntary and confidential. If you have any concerns, this official statement is available for you to read. (Offer to hand them the laminated card). (The card will contain text concerning the Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act compliance, and also a burden estimate statement—see below.)

1. During your backpacking trip did you hear and/or see any aircraft? (*Circle one number.*)

- 1 NO → GO TO QUESTION 5
- 2 YES → CONTINUE WITH QUESTION 2

2. Were you at all annoyed by aircraft during this hiking trip in Denali? (*Circle one number.*)

- 1 NO → GO TO QUESTION 3
- 2 DON'T KNOW/CAN'T REMEMBER → GO TO QUESTION 3
- 3 YES → 2.1 How annoyed would you say that you were? (*Give respondent the laminated card with response scale.*)

- 1 SLIGHTLY ANNOYED
- 2 MODERATELY ANNOYED
- 3 VERY ANNOYED
- 4 EXTREMELY ANNOYED

Appendix D: Post-Hike Interview

3. **Will the aircraft you heard and/or saw during this trip affect your future visits to Denali?** *(Circle one number.)*

- 1 NO → GO TO QUESTION 4
- 2 DONT KNOW → GO TO QUESTION 4
- 3 YES → 3.1 How will your decisions concerning future visits be affected? *(Classify response made.)*

- 1 Will you be more likely to return to Denali
- 2 Will you come at a time when there is less aircraft activity
- 3 Will you plan to do different activities in Denali
- 4 Will you visit a different area of Denali
- 5 Will you stop visiting Denali
- 6 Other effects not described *(Please specify below.)*

-
- 7 Don't know how my decisions will be affected

4. **Did aircraft overflights either add to or detract from your enjoyment of Denali on this trip?** *(Circle one number.)*

- 1 NO, DIDN'T ADD OR DETRACT → GO TO QUESTION 5
- 2 YES → 4.1 How would you say that aircraft affected your trip? *(Give respondent the laminated card with response scale.)*

- 1 ADDED GREATLY
- 2 ADDED MODERATELY
- 3 ADDED SLIGHTLY
- 4 DETRACTED SLIGHTLY
- 5 DETRACTED MODERATELY
- 6 DETRACTED GREATLY

Appendix D: Post-Hike Interview

5. Before this backpacking trip, did you know that aircraft are sometimes heard or seen flying over Denali?

NO

YES → 5.1 How did you learn about the presence of aircraft at Denali?

(Check as many as reported. Probe by asking "Any others?" if they stop at one source.)

1. SURVEY WORKER
2. HEARD/SAW THEM DURING PRESENT VISIT
3. PARK WEB SITE
4. PRIOR VISITS
5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE/ALASKA EXPERIENCE
6. FRIENDS OR RELATIVES
7. TRAVEL GUIDE/TOUR BOOK
8. NEWSPAPER/MAGAZINE
9. MAPS/BROCHURES
10. RADIO/TELEVISION
11. DON'T REMEMBER WHERE
12. OTHER (Please specify:_____)

Thank you for answering our questions. The last part of our survey is this questionnaire (hand them the mail questionnaire) that you can fill out at a convenient time and send back to us. A stamped return envelope is included. We would appreciate it if you could fill it out in the next few days so that your trip here is still fresh in your memory. Thanks again for participating in our survey. Your input will help the National Park Service manage Denali National Park.

Denali National Park Backpacker Survey: Post-hike Questions

We originally intended to ask you these questions at the Denali visitor center. However, because we missed you at that time, please answer the questions now and return them with your completed Mail-Back Questionnaire. To fully utilize your data, it is important that we have your responses to all parts of the survey. Thank you.

Thank you for completing the daily experience diary. Now we would like to ask you just a few questions about aircraft. For the purposes of these questions, the term aircraft includes propeller planes, helicopters & jets.

Before we begin, we wish to emphasize that your responses are voluntary and confidential. If you have any concerns, please read the official statement on the inside front cover of the Mail-Back Questionnaire.

1. During your backpacking trip did you hear and/or see any aircraft? *(Circle one number.)*

- 1 NO → GO TO QUESTION 5
- 2 YES → CONTINUE WITH QUESTION 2

2. Were you at all annoyed by aircraft during this hiking trip in Denali? *(Circle one number.)*

- 1 NO → GO TO QUESTION 3
- 2 DON'T KNOW/CAN'T REMEMBER → GO TO QUESTION 3
- 3 YES → 2.1 How annoyed would you say that you were? *(Circle one number.)*

- 1 SLIGHTLY ANNOYED
- 2 MODERATELY ANNOYED
- 3 VERY ANNOYED
- 4 EXTREMELY ANNOYED

Appendix D: Post-Hike Interview

3. Will the aircraft you heard and/or saw during this trip affect your future visits to Denali? (Circle one number.)

- 1 NO → GO TO QUESTION 4
- 2 DON'T KNOW → GO TO QUESTION 4
- 3 YES → 3.1 How will your decisions concerning future visits be affected? (Circle all that apply.)

- 1 Will you be more likely to return to Denali
- 2 Will you come at a time when there is less aircraft activity
- 3 Will you plan to do different activities in Denali
- 4 Will you visit a different area of Denali
- 5 Will you stop visiting Denali
- 6 Other effects not described (Please specify below.)

8 Don't know how my decisions will be affected

4. Did aircraft overflights either add to or detract from your enjoyment of Denali on this trip? (Circle one number.)

- 1 NO, DIDN'T ADD OR DETRACT → GO TO QUESTION 5
- 2 YES → 4.1 How would you say that aircraft affected your trip? (Circle one number.)

- 1 ADDED GREATLY
- 2 ADDED MODERATELY
- 3 ADDED SLIGHTLY
- 4 DETRACTED SLIGHTLY
- 5 DETRACTED MODERATELY
- 6 DETRACTED GREATLY

Appendix D: Post-Hike Interview

5. Before this backpacking trip, did you know that aircraft are sometimes heard or seen flying over Denali?

NO

YES → 5.1 How did you learn about the presence of aircraft at Denali?

(Circle all that apply.)

- 13. SURVEY WORKER
- 14. HEARD/SAW THEM DURING PRESENT VISIT
- 15. PARK WEB SITE
- 16. PRIOR VISITS
- 17. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE/ALASKA EXPERIENCE
- 18. FRIENDS OR RELATIVES
- 19. TRAVEL GUIDE/TOUR BOOK
- 20. NEWSPAPER/MAGAZINE
- 21. MAPS/BROCHURES
- 22. RADIO/TELEVISION
- 23. DON'T REMEMBER WHERE
- 24. OTHER *(Please specify: _____)*

Thank you for answering the post-hike questions. The last part of the survey is the Mail-back Questionnaire.

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH THE MAIL-BACK QUESTIONNAIRE
IN THE POSTAGE PAID ENVELOPE**

Thanks again for participating in our survey. Your input will help the National Park Service manage Denali National Park.

Appendix E: Mail Questionnaire

Denali National Park Backpacker Survey



Denali Backpacker Survey
Cascadia Field Station
USGS/BRD/FRESC
College of Forest Resources – Box 352100
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-2100

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:

16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name has been requested for follow-up mailing purposes only. When analysis of the questionnaire is completed, all name and address files will be destroyed. Thus the permanent data will be anonymous. Please do not put your name or that of any member of your group on the questionnaire. Data collected through visitor surveys may be disclosed to the Department of Justice when relevant to litigation or anticipated litigation, or to appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies responsible for investigating or prosecuting a violation of law. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Burden estimate statement:

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 20 minutes per respondent. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503; and to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administrative Program Center, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Denali National Park

April 16, 2002

Dear Park Visitor,

Many people visit Denali National Park each year. As part of the park's wilderness planning and management process, information is needed to understand the factors that contribute to, and detract from visitors' experiences. To this end, I have asked the Cascadia Field Station of the United States Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division to conduct a survey of backcountry visitors.

When you entered the Denali visitor center, you were selected as part of a sample of visitors to participate in the survey. Thank you for your participation thus far, and for your agreement to continue your participation in the survey. In order that the results be complete and truly representative of all backcountry visitors, it is important that you take the time to complete this questionnaire. When you have finished, please place the questionnaire in the stamped, pre-addressed envelope and drop it in the mail.

An identification number is included on the questionnaire so we may check your name off the mailing list when the questionnaire is returned. Your name will not be placed on the questionnaire. All responses will be confidential.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this survey. I hope that you enjoyed your visit.

Sincerely,

Superintendent

Recently, you obtained a permit for an overnight hiking trip in Denali National Park. At the park, you answered some questions and agreed to complete this mail questionnaire about your experiences during the trip. Thank you for your cooperation.

While filling out this questionnaire, please remember that **all questions ask about the trip to Denali when you were contacted for this survey.** Also, please be sure to read each question carefully before answering it.

QUESTIONS 1 TO 5 ASK YOU ABOUT SOME GENERAL ASPECTS OF YOUR TRIP TO DENALI.

1. When did you first decide to take an overnight backcountry trip in Denali? *(Please circle the appropriate number.)*

- 1 PRIOR TO LEAVING HOME FOR THIS TRIP
- 2 WHILE EN ROUTE TO DENALI FOR THIS TRIP
- 3 WHILE AT DENALI ON THIS TRIP

2. **Including this visit**, how many visits have you made to Denali National Park? *(Please enter a question mark "?" if you don't remember.)*

NUMBER OF VISITS _____

3. **Including this visit**, how many backcountry travel permits have you been issued for backpacking trips at Denali? *(Please enter a question mark "?" if you don't remember.)*

NUMBER OF VISITS _____

4. How many total **nights** did you (will you) spend in the Park and surrounding community (including overnight backcountry trips) during **this visit** to Denali?

NIGHTS AT DENALI: _____ → Of this total number of nights in the area, how many were (will be) spent camped in the backcountry?

NIGHTS IN BACKCOUNTRY: _____

5. How many **backcountry day hikes** (hikes outside the immediate vicinity of developed facilities that were not on developed trails and not part of an overnight backcountry trip) did you take during **this visit** to Denali? *(Please circle the appropriate number. Include future day hikes if you haven't finished your current visit.)*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10+

QUESTIONS 6 TO 10 ASK ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH OTHER HIKING PARTIES DURING THE OVERNIGHT BACKCOUNTRY TRIP YOU RECORDED IN THE EXPERIENCE DIARY.

6. How did you feel about the hiking parties you saw on this backcountry trip? *Please circle the appropriate number for each of the following cases, even if no hiking parties were seen. If you did not see hiking parties, and this was your preference, circle 3. If you did not see other hiking parties, but preferred seeing some, circle 4 or 5.*

<i>The numbers are defined as follows:</i>						
1 = Saw too many, preferred seeing none	4 = Saw too few, preferred seeing a few more					
2 = Saw too many, preferred seeing less	5 = Saw too few, preferred seeing many more					
3 = Saw about the right number	6 = Did not matter one way or the other					
HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT...						
a. Number of hiking parties (all types) that you saw.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT...						
b. Number of hiking parties (all types) with whom you interacted.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT...						
c. Number of day hiking parties you saw.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT...						
d. Number of parties camped in sight/sound.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

7. Of the hiking parties you saw on this overnight backcountry trip, about how many were **day-hiking parties**? *(Please circle the appropriate number.)*

- 1 Did not see hiking parties
- 2 Was unable to distinguish day-hiking parties from other parties
- 3 None
- 4 About one-fourth
- 5 About one-half
- 6 About three-fourths
- 7 All

8. How did the number of hiking parties (all types) you saw compare with the number you thought you would see? *(Please circle the appropriate number, even if you did not see hiking parties.)*

- 1 A LOT LESS THAN EXPECTED
- 2 LESS THAN EXPECTED
- 3 ABOUT AS EXPECTED
- 4 MORE THAN EXPECTED
- 5 A LOT MORE THAN EXPECTED
- 6 HAD NO EXPECTATIONS ABOUT THE NUMBER TO BE SEEN

9. How did the number of hiking parties (all types) you saw affect your overall enjoyment of this overnight backcountry trip? *(Please circle one number, even if you did not see hiking parties.)*

- 1 GREATLY ADDED TO ENJOYMENT
- 2 SOMEWHAT ADDED TO ENJOYMENT
- 3 HAD NO EFFECT
- 4 SOMEWHAT REDUCED ENJOYMENT
- 5 GREATLY REDUCED ENJOYMENT

10. How did the number of park rangers you saw affect your overall enjoyment of this backcountry trip? *(Please circle one number, even if you did not see park rangers.)*

- 1 GREATLY ADDED TO ENJOYMENT
- 2 SOMEWHAT ADDED TO ENJOYMENT
- 3 HAD NO EFFECT
- 4 SOMEWHAT REDUCED ENJOYMENT
- 5 GREATLY REDUCED ENJOYMENT

11a. Once you began your backcountry trip, did your party behave in such a way so as to avoid other hiking parties? *(Circle one number)*

1 NO → **GO TO QUESTION 12**

2 YES → 11b. How did you avoid other parties? Did you.... *(Circle as many as apply.)*

- 1 Hike at particular times of day
 - 2 Hike in (or avoid) particular areas
 - 3 End your hike and leave the backcountry earlier than you would have
 - 4 Other effects not described *(Please specify below.)*
-

QUESTIONS 12 AND 13 ASK FOR YOUR JUDGEMENTS ABOUT A TYPICAL DAY DURING A BACKPACKING TRIP IN THE DENALI BACKCOUNTRY. PLEASE THINK BACK TO YOUR RECENT OVERNIGHT TRIP IN ORDER TO MAKE THESE JUDGEMENTS.

12. What is the number of hiking parties (all types) that you would **prefer** to see on a typical hiking day during a backpacking trip in the Denali backcountry? *(Please enter a number, or circle number 2 if you have no preference.)*

- 1 NUMBER OF PARTIES _____
- 2 I HAVE NO PREFERENCE

13. What is the number of hiking parties that you would **prefer** to have camped within sight and/or sound of you at a typical backcountry camp in Denali? *(Please enter a number, or circle number 2 if you have no preference.)*

- 1 NUMBER OF PARTIES CAMPED _____
- 2 I HAVE NO PREFERENCE

QUESTIONS 14 TO 16 ASK ABOUT EVIDENCE OF HUMAN USE THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE SEEN DURING YOUR OVERNIGHT BACKCOUNTRY TRIP.

14. Did you see any evidence of human use on this overnight backcountry trip? *(Please circle one letter in the column "Saw evidence?" for each type of evidence of human use you observed in BACKCOUNTRY areas.)*

IF YES, about how much, if at all, did this evidence of human use bother you? *(Please circle one number in the column "IF YES, bothered you?" for those types of evidence of human use you saw.)*

	Saw evidence?			IF YES, bothered you?		
	No	Yes		Not Bothered	Somewhat Bothered	Very Bothered
a) Human waste.....	N	Y	→	NB	SB	VB
b) Toilet paper.....	N	Y	→	NB	SB	VB
c) Campfire rings.....	N	Y	→	NB	SB	VB
d) Litter.....	N	Y	→	NB	SB	VB
e) Cut bushes or trees.....	N	Y	→	NB	SB	VB
f) Hiker-made trails.....	N	Y	→	NB	SB	VB
g) Hiker-made campsites. (for example, soil compaction, vegetation trampling, moved rocks.)	N	Y	→	NB	SB	VB

15. On this overnight backcountry trip, how many nights, if any, did you camp where there was evidence of previous overnight use? *(For example, fire ring, soil compaction, vegetation trampling, or moved rocks. Please circle the appropriate number, or circle 'Can't remember'.)*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10+ (Can't remember)

16. How did the amount of evidence of human use you saw during this overnight backcountry trip compare with what you thought you would see? *(Please circle one number even if you did not see any evidence of human use.)*

- 1 A LOT MORE THAN EXPECTED
- 2 MORE THAN EXPECTED
- 3 ABOUT AS EXPECTED
- 4 LESS THAN EXPECTED
- 5 A LOT LESS THAN EXPECTED
- 6 HAD NO EXPECTATIONS ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE THAT WOULD BE SEEN

QUESTIONS 17 TO 19 ASK YOU TO EVALUATE SOME ASPECTS OF YOUR OVERNIGHT BACKCOUNTRY TRIP.

17a. To what extent did you feel "crowded" during this backcountry trip? *(Circle one number.)*

<u>Not at all</u> <u>Crowded</u>	<u>Slightly</u> <u>Crowded</u>		<u>Moderately</u> <u>Crowded</u>		<u>Extremely</u> <u>Crowded</u>	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

**GO TO
QUESTION 18**

► **17b.** IF YOU FELT CROWDED AT ALL (CIRCLED EITHER 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, OR 7), which of the following factors contributed to your feeling crowded? *(Please circle one response for each factor.)*

	<u>Did not</u> <u>contribute</u>	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>contributed</u>		<u>Greatly</u> <u>contributed</u>		<u>Don't know/</u> <u>remember</u>
Number of hiking parties (all types) seen	1	2	3	4	5	DK/R
Number of day hiking parties seen.....	1	2	3	4	5	DK/R
Number of parties camped in sight/sound	1	2	3	4	5	DK/R
Amount of evidence of human use seen...	1	2	3	4	5	DK/R
Type of evidence of human use seen.....	1	2	3	4	5	DK/R
Other: (Specify: _____)	1	2	3	4	5	DK/R

18. How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the following aspects of this backcountry trip?

Please circle one response code for each aspect. The response codes are defined as follows:

VS = VERY SATISFIED
S = SATISFIED
N = NEUTRAL
D = DISSATISFIED
VD = VERY DISSATISFIED

- | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|---|---|----|
| a) | Your experience in obtaining a backcountry travel permit..... | VS | S | N | D | VD |
| b) | The shuttle bus service..... | VS | S | N | D | VD |
| c) | The amount of wildlife you saw..... | VS | S | N | D | VD |
| d) | The variety of wildlife species you saw..... | VS | S | N | D | VD |
| e) | <u>Information on:</u> | | | | | |
| | Backcountry rules and regulations | VS | S | N | D | VD |
| | Description of backcountry zones | VS | S | N | D | VD |
| | Day-to-day use levels for backcountry zones..... | VS | S | N | D | VD |
| | River crossing hazards..... | VS | S | N | D | VD |
| | Wildlife hazards..... | VS | S | N | D | VD |
| f) | This research project..... | VS | S | N | D | VD |

19. Overall, how would you rate this backcountry trip? (Circle one response.)

Very Good	Good	Neither Good Nor Poor	Poor	Very Poor
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QUESTIONS 20 TO 28 ASK ABOUT DENALI'S BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT POLICIES.

20. Before arriving at Denali, were you aware of the following management policies and regulations? *(Circle one response for each item)*

	Was aware?	
a) That there is a shuttle bus transportation system.....	NO	YES
b) That the backcountry is divided into travel zones.....	NO	YES
c) That a permit is required for overnight travel in the backcountry.....	NO	YES
d) That only a certain number of hikers are permitted to camp in most zones on any given night.....	NO	YES
e) That day hikers are not required to have travel permits.....	NO	YES
f) That certain areas of the backcountry are permanently closed to overnight backcountry use.....	NO	YES
g) That hikers are sometimes prohibited from entering certain backcountry zones.....	NO	YES
h) That campfires are not allowed in the backcountry.....	NO	YES
i) That backcountry campsites must not be visible from the park road.....	NO	YES

21a. Generally speaking, do you agree or disagree with the present policy of allowing, on the average, about 6 hikers to **camp** in most Denali backcountry zones on any given night?
(Circle one number)

1 DON'T KNOW OR DON'T CARE → **GO TO QUESTION 22a**

2 I AGREE → **GO TO QUESTION 22a**

3 I DISAGREE → **21b.** Generally speaking, about how many hikers should be allowed to **camp** in an average backcountry zone on any given night?
(Check one blank)

_____ No overnight use should be allowed	_____ 16-21
_____ 1-2	_____ 22-27
_____ 3-5	_____ 28 or more
_____ 7-9	_____ Unlimited use should be allowed
_____ 10-15	_____ Don't know

22a. Generally speaking, do you agree or disagree with park managers' present objective that backpackers should encounter no more than **two** other **hiking parties** per day? (*Circle one number*)

1 DON'T KNOW OR DON'T CARE → **GO TO QUESTION 23a**

2 I AGREE → **GO TO QUESTION 23a**

3 I DISAGREE → 22b. Generally speaking, what is the **maximum** number of other hiking parties that backpackers should encounter on any given day? (*Check one blank*)

_____ Backpackers should encounter no other hiking parties	_____ 12-16
_____ 1	_____ 17-22
_____ 3-4	_____ 23 or more
_____ 5-7	_____ Unlimited use should be allowed
_____ 8-11	_____ Don't know

23a. Generally speaking, do you agree or disagree with park managers' present objective that backpackers should be able to camp out of sight and sound of **all** other hiking parties? (*Circle one number*)

1 DON'T KNOW OR DON'T CARE → **GO TO QUESTION 24**

2 I AGREE → **GO TO QUESTION 24**

3 I DISAGREE → 23b. Generally speaking, what is the **maximum** number of other hiking parties that should be camped within sight and/or sound of a given camp? (*Check one blank*)

_____ 1	_____ 6-7
_____ 2	_____ 8-9
_____ 3	_____ 10 or more
_____ 4	_____ Unlimited camping should be allowed
_____ 5	_____ Don't know

24. What are your feelings about each of the following regulations that currently govern backcountry use in Denali National Park?

Please circle one response code for each regulation. The response codes are defined as follows:

SS = Strongly Support
S = Support
N = Neutral
O = Oppose
SO = Strongly Oppose

- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|----|
| a) All overnight hiking parties must obtain a backcountry travel permit..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| b) Backcountry travel permits may only be obtained in the Park | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| c) Backcountry travel permits may only be obtained 24 hours in advance of one's trip..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| d) Overnight hikers may only camp in the backcountry zones specified by their permit..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| e) Overnight hikers may only camp in the backcountry on the nights specified by their permit. | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| f) Overnight hikers may hike in zones other than those specified by their permit for camping..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| g) Day hikers do not need travel permits..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| h) Hiking parties may camp most anywhere within their scheduled backcountry zones..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| i) Backcountry campsites must not be visible from the park road..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| j) Campfires are not allowed in the backcountry..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| k) Some areas of the backcountry are permanently closed to overnight hikers in order to protect fragile wildlife habitats..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| l) Some backcountry zones are temporarily closed to hikers in order to protect hikers from unpredictable wildlife..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| m) Capacities (# of hiking parties) for backcountry zones are determined on the basis of individual hikers , rather than by hiking parties | SS | S | N | O | SO |

25a. Generally speaking, do you feel there should be a maximum party size for the Denali backcountry? *(Circle one number)*

- 1 DON'T KNOW OR DON'T CARE → **GO TO QUESTION 26**
- 2 NO → **GO TO QUESTION 26**
- 3 YES → **25b. What should be the maximum party size?**

MAXIMUM PARTY SIZE: _____

26. Do you support or oppose each of the following possible management policies for rationing use in the Denali backcountry?

Please circle one response code for each regulation. The response codes are defined as follows:

SS = Strongly Support
 S = Support
 N = Neutral
 O = Oppose
 SO = Strongly Oppose

- | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|---|----|
| a) Issue a limited number of permits on a first-come, first-served basis..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| b) Issue a limited number of permits on a drawing or lottery basis..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| c) Issue a limited number of permits through an advanced reservation system..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| d) Issue a limited number of permits to those who can demonstrate a certain level of knowledge and skill.. | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| e) Charge a use fee of no more than \$10 per trip for backcountry permits..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| f) Allow use without rationing (i.e., unlimited use).... | SS | S | N | O | SO |

27a. Generally speaking, do you agree or disagree with park managers' present objective that backpackers should encounter **park rangers** no more than **once** during a backpacking trip?
(Circle one number)

1 DON'T KNOW OR DON'T CARE → GO TO QUESTION 28

2 I AGREE →

3 I DISAGREE → 27b. Do you think **all** backpackers should encounter park rangers at some point during a backpacking trip? (Circle one number.)

1 YES → GO TO QUESTION 27d

2 NO → 27c. Do you think that backpackers should **never** encounter park rangers during a backpacking trip?
(Circle one number.)

1 YES → GO TO QUESTION 28

2 NO → 27d. What is the maximum number of park rangers that backpackers should encounter during a backpacking trip?
(Enter a question mark "?" if you don't know.)

MAXIMUM RANGER

ENCOUNTERS: _____

28. Do you support or oppose each of the following potential additions to the Denali backcountry?

Please circle one response code for each regulation. The response codes are defined as follows:

SS = Strongly Support
S = Support
N = Neutral
O = Oppose
SO = Strongly Oppose

- | | | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|---|----|
| a) Developed hiking trails..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| b) Designated campsites..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| c) Tables..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| d) Shelters..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| e) Toilets..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| f) Fire rings..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| g) Bridges over rivers..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| h) Interpretive signs..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |
| i) Food caches for bear protection..... | SS | S | N | O | SO |

QUESTIONS 29 AND 30 ASK ABOUT A VARIETY OF REASONS WHY YOU MIGHT MAKE OVERNIGHT HIKING TRIPS IN DENALI'S BACKCOUNTRY.

29. Below are 12 reasons that people might make overnight hiking trips in the Denali backcountry. To the right of each reason is a scale of how important each reason was in motivating your visit.

On your overnight trip in the Denali backcountry, how IMPORTANT was it for you to...
(Circle one response for each reason. Circle 'Not Important' if a reason is not relevant to you.)

Example:

a	Relaxing physically	NOT IMPORTANT	<u>SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT</u>	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
---	---------------------	------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------	------------------------

For this person, relaxing physically was a somewhat important reason why they chose to visit.

a	Develop your skills and abilities	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
b	Do something with your family	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
c	Observe other people in the area	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
d	Bring your family closer together	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
e	Experience new and different things	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
f	Learn more about nature	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
g	Get away from the usual demands of life	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
h	Be with others who enjoy the same things you do	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
i	Talk to new and varied people	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
j	Be with friends	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
k	Experience tranquility	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
l	Learn what you are capable of	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

30. Below are the same 12 reasons that people might take overnight hikes in Denali, but this time the scale on the right concerns how much opportunity there was to satisfy each reason for the trip.

On your overnight trip in the Denali backcountry, how much OPPORTUNITY was there for you to...
(Circle one response for each reason. If a reason is not relevant to you, indicate the general opportunity available.)

Example:

a	Relaxing physically	NO OPPORTUNITY	POOR OPPORTUNITY	<u>GOOD OPPORTUNITY</u>	VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY	EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
---	---------------------	-------------------	---------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

This person felt that on their trip they had a good opportunity to relax physically.

a	Develop your skills and abilities	NO OPPORTUNITY	POOR OPPORTUNITY	GOOD OPPORTUNITY	VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY	EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
b	Do something with your family	NO OPPORTUNITY	POOR OPPORTUNITY	GOOD OPPORTUNITY	VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY	EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
c	Observe other people in the area	NO OPPORTUNITY	POOR OPPORTUNITY	GOOD OPPORTUNITY	VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY	EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
d	Bring your family closer together	NO OPPORTUNITY	POOR OPPORTUNITY	GOOD OPPORTUNITY	VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY	EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
e	Experience new and different things	NO OPPORTUNITY	POOR OPPORTUNITY	GOOD OPPORTUNITY	VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY	EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
f	Learn more about nature	NO OPPORTUNITY	POOR OPPORTUNITY	GOOD OPPORTUNITY	VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY	EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
g	Get away from the usual demands of life	NO OPPORTUNITY	POOR OPPORTUNITY	GOOD OPPORTUNITY	VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY	EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
h	Be with others who enjoy the same things you do	NO OPPORTUNITY	POOR OPPORTUNITY	GOOD OPPORTUNITY	VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY	EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
i	Talk to new and varied people	NO OPPORTUNITY	POOR OPPORTUNITY	GOOD OPPORTUNITY	VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY	EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
j	Be with friends	NO OPPORTUNITY	POOR OPPORTUNITY	GOOD OPPORTUNITY	VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY	EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
k	Experience tranquility	NO OPPORTUNITY	POOR OPPORTUNITY	GOOD OPPORTUNITY	VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY	EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY
l	Learn what you are capable of	NO OPPORTUNITY	POOR OPPORTUNITY	GOOD OPPORTUNITY	VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY	EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY

FINALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK A FEW BACKGROUND QUESTIONS. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED WILL BE USED FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY.

31. Are you: *(Circle one number.)*

- 1 FEMALE
- 2 MALE

32. What year were you born?

19 ____

33. What is the highest level of formal schooling you have completed?
(Circle the appropriate number.)

YEARS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24+
(Elementary thru High School) (College/Vocational) (Graduate/Professional)

34. Which of the following best describes your current employment status? *(Circle the appropriate number.)*

- 1 STUDENT
- 2 HOMEMAKER
- 3 RETIRED
- 4 MILITARY
- 5 EMPLOYED
- 6 UNEMPLOYED

35. What is your home Zip code? *(Enter country if you reside outside the United States.)*

36. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself? *(Circle your answers.)*

Ethnicity:

- 1 HISPANIC OR LATINO
- 2 NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO

Race:

- 1 AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE
- 2 ASIAN
- 3 BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN
- 4 HISPANIC OR LATINO
- 5 NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER
- 6 WHITE
- 7 DO NOT WISH TO ANSWER

37. Please use the space below to write any other comments you care to make about the positive or negative aspects of your trip to Denali, or about National Park Service management of the area.

**Thank You Very Much For Your Time
And Consideration In Completing This Survey**

APPENDIX F: HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

This section is a brief introduction to the basic statistical methods included in this report. It defines some key terms and illustrates the ways in which the statistical tables and graphs have been prepared.

The main tool used in statistics is data--those observations and measurements that are recorded in a study. As commonly used, the word "data" is plural. For example, all of the visitors' ages comprise data. A single unit of data -- for example, the age of a single visitor -- is a datum.

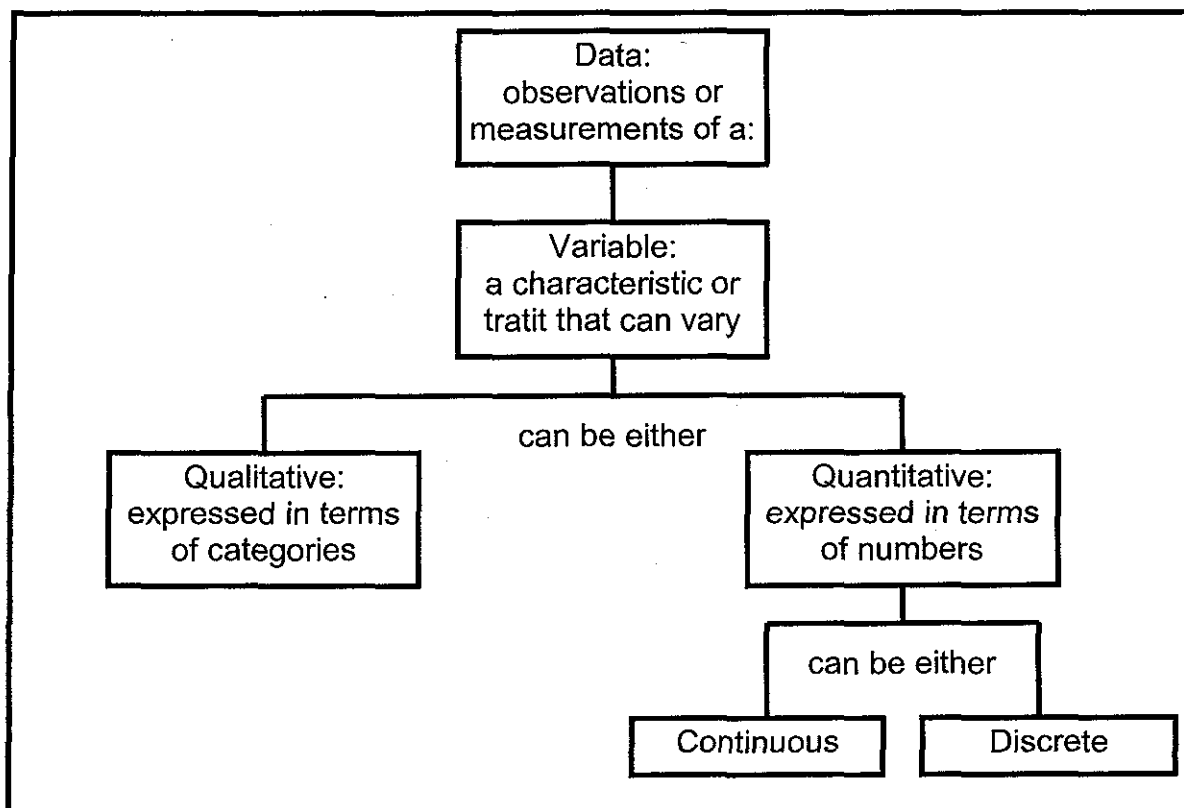
Data are collected about relevant variables. A variable is simply a characteristic or trait of interest that can vary. For example, the ages of visitors, their party characteristics, or their satisfaction with wildlife sightings at MORA can all be considered variables: Each of these traits or characteristics varies from person to person in the study sample.

Variables can be of two types: Qualitative variables are expressed in terms of categories, such as whether or not a visitor has been to the Visitor Center. Quantitative variables are expressed in terms of numbers, such as the size of a visitor party.

Discrete quantitative variables have distinct and separate units. There are no values possible between the units of a discrete variable. For example, the number of visitors in a single party consists only of whole numbers of people. One cannot talk about a party of 1 1/2 persons.

Figure D.1 illustrates these concepts.

FIGURE D.1. FLOW CHART OF STATISTICAL CONCEPTS AND TERMINOLOGY



Often data for more than one variable are collected. The data for the unit of analysis under consideration (an individual visitor, a single party, a specific park) are a case. Statistical analyses are done on groups of cases to form a data set. The number of cases in a data set is usually referred to as "n." For example, if 1000 visitors answered a question, $n = 1000$.

In many instances, respondents do not answer all of the questions in a survey. They either inadvertently skip a question or are asked to skip question because it does not apply to them. When a respondent does not answer a question that they should have answered, he/she is a "missing case" for that question. If the number of missing cases exceeds 10 percent of those who should have answered the question, a corresponding footnote or statement in the text will indicate this fact.

Data can be collected for all of the possible cases such as on every visitor to MORA. This is a census. Alternately, data can be collected for a sample of the total

Appendix F: How To Use This Report

population. There are many ways to choose a sample. One common approach is a random probability sample, in which each individual has an equal chance of being included in the data set. In the strictest mathematical sense, the WTVS sample is not random due to the possibility of bias through non-response. However, the authors believe that the potential bias is so minimal that, for ordinary management purposes, the sample can be considered random and therefore, representative of the population of visitors to the studied wilderness trails.

The data from this survey are reported as descriptive statistics. Descriptive statistics are used to summarize a large group of numbers and to describe general characteristics of the data set. For example, there might be a long list of each visitor's age. Descriptive statistics can be used to quickly summarize this long list. The average (mean) age would be the total of all the cases' ages divided by the number of cases. The modal age (mode) would be the most frequently reported age. The range would be the spread of ages from the youngest to the oldest.

In addition to descriptive statistics, inferential statistical procedures have been used to determine the likelihood that observed relationships among the different variables are due to chance. The smaller the likelihood that an observed effect is due to chance the more confident one can be that the effect is due to systematic variation. The p-value is the probability of obtaining the observed result due to chance alone and is directly related to the results of the statistical test. By convention, when the probability of obtaining a result due to chance is very small ($p < .05$), then it is concluded that the observed effect is due to systematic variation or a "real" effect. Results with p-values less than .05 are also referred to as significant. In this report, you will see the value of the statistic and its corresponding p-value (e.g., $\chi^2(1)=3.44$, $p < .01$). The important thing to remember is that effects that have p-values less than .05 are considered real effects.

The most common statistical procedure used in this report is the chi-square test for independence. This statistical test determines if the pattern of responses for one categorical variable differs across different categories of the second categorical variable. For example, suppose a chi-square test examining the relationship between sex of respondent and day of week contacted was significant. This means that the proportion of

Appendix F: How To Use This Report

males and females among respondents contacted on weekdays (e.g., 50% males, 50% females) differed significantly from that of respondents contacted on the weekend (e.g., 60% males, 40% females).

When one of the variables are measured on a continuous (e.g., age) rather than categorical (e.g., gender) basis, the statistical procedure used to examine differences across groups is Analysis of Variance (F-test). A significant F-value indicates that there is a significant difference among the groups. If there are more than 2 groups, follow-up tests (e.g., post hoc Tukey tests) can be performed to determine which groups differ from each other. Additional statistical procedures used in this report are explained briefly either in the text or a footnote when they are first introduced.

Statistics can be presented in several formats. Tables simply organize the data into horizontal and vertical columns and sometimes include brief explanations. Graphs or figures illustrate the data through a visual presentation. All of these formats are present in this report.

Appendix G: Encounters with Hiking Parties

Three questions filled out daily in both versions of the diary asked backpackers to report on the number of other hiking parties they saw, how they felt about the number of other hiking parties they saw, and the number of other hiking parties with which they interacted (the questions are reproduced later in this appendix). Because data were collected on a daily basis and then aggregated to represent each backpacking party's trip, five summary figures represent data from the number of hiking parties seen question and the number of hiking parties interacted with question and four summary figures represent data from the feeling question.

Number of Hiking Parties Seen Per Day:

- The *Average per Trip Day* represents the total number of hiking parties seen reported during a trip divided by the number of trip days. Because partial hiking days could be reported on the first and/or last day of the diary, the presented averages are low estimates of hiking parties seen per full hiking day.
- The *Maximum Daily Number per Trip* represents the number of hiking parties seen reported on the day when the most hiking parties were seen. For example, if a party on a three-day hiking trip reported seeing 2, 0, and 1 hiking parties on each day, the maximum daily number of hiking parties seen would be 2.
- The *Minimum Daily Number per Trip* is calculated in the same manner as the Maximum Daily Number, except that it represents the trip day when the fewest hiking parties were seen (i.e., in the example above, the minimum daily number of hiking parties would be 0).
- The *Standard Deviation per Trip Day* represents the variability in the daily number of hiking parties seen reported across the days of each trip. The standard deviation is the conventional way of describing how much a group of scores (in this case, hikers seen reported across multiple trip days) vary around the mean of that group (in this case, the Average per Trip Day).
- The *Total Number per Trip* is simply the total number of hiking parties seen during a trip.

Appendix G: Encounters with Hiking Parties

Feelings about the Number of Hiking Parties Seen Today:

- The *Average Feeling Rating about Number of Hiking Parties Seen per Trip Day* represents the sum of the feeling ratings of the number of hiking parties seen each day divided by the number of trip days for a respondent selected to represent a party. Days may include partial hiking days from the first and/or last day of the diary.
- The *Most Negative Feeling Rating about Number of Hiking Parties Seen per Trip Day* represents the day that had the most negative rating for number of hiking parties seen for a respondent selected to represent a party. For example, if a party on a three-day hiking trip reported feeling a 2, 3, and 4 for each of the days, the most negative rating feeling rating would be 2 (Saw too many, preferred seeing less).
- The *Most Positive Feeling Rating about Number of Hiking Parties Seen per Trip Day* represents the day that had the most positive rating for number of hiking parties seen for a respondent selected to represent a party. In the above example, the most positive feeling rating would be 4 (Saw too few, preferred seeing more).
- The *Standard Deviation of Feeling Ratings about the Number of Hiking Parties Seen per Trip Day* represents the variability in the daily feeling ratings for the number of hiking parties seen across the days of each trip. The standard deviation is the conventional way of describing how much a group of scores (in this case, feeling ratings for multiple trip days) vary around the mean of that group (in this case, the Average Feeling Rating per Trip Day).

Number of Hiking Parties Interacted with Each Day:

- The *Average Number of Hiking Parties Interacted with per Trip Day* represents the total number of hiking parties interacted with reported during a trip divided by the number of trip days. Because partial hiking days could be reported on the first and/or last day of the diary, the presented averages are low estimates of hiking parties interacted with per full hiking day.
- The *Maximum Daily Number of Hiking Parties Interacted with per Trip* represents the day on which the hiking party interacted with the most other hiking parties. For example,

Appendix G: Encounters with Hiking Parties

if a party on a three-day hiking trip reported interacting with 2, 0, and 1 hiking parties on each day, the maximum daily number of hiking parties interacted with would be 2.

- The *Minimum Daily Number of Hiking Parties Interacted with per Trip* is calculated in the same manner as the Maximum Daily Number, except that it represents the trip day when the fewest hiking parties were interacted with (i.e., in the example above, the minimum daily number of hikers would be 0).
- The *Standard Deviation per Trip Day* represents the variability in the daily number of hiking parties interacted with reported across the days of each trip. The standard deviation is the conventional way of describing how much a group of scores (in this case, hiking parties interacted with reported across multiple trip days) vary around the mean of that group (in this case, the Average per Trip Day).
- The *Total Number per Trip* is simply the total number of hiking parties interacted with during a trip.

Number of Hiking Parties Seen Per Day

Diary, Versions 1 & 2

5. How many different hiking parties did you see today? _____

Appendix G: Encounters with Hiking Parties

FIGURE G.1: Diary (aggregated), Q-5
AVERAGE NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES SEEN PER TRIP DAY

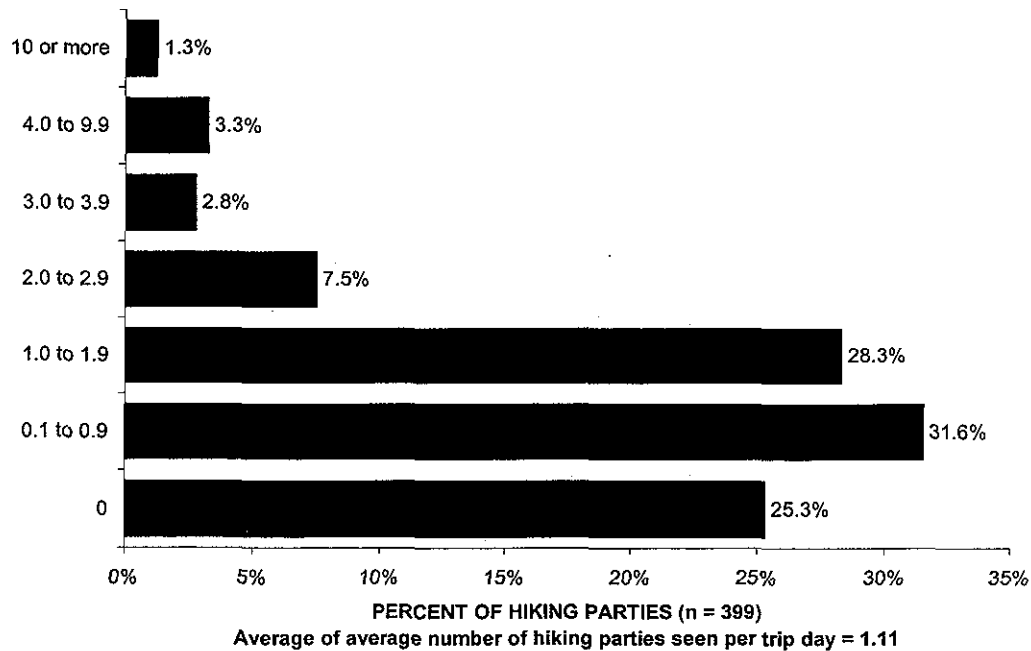
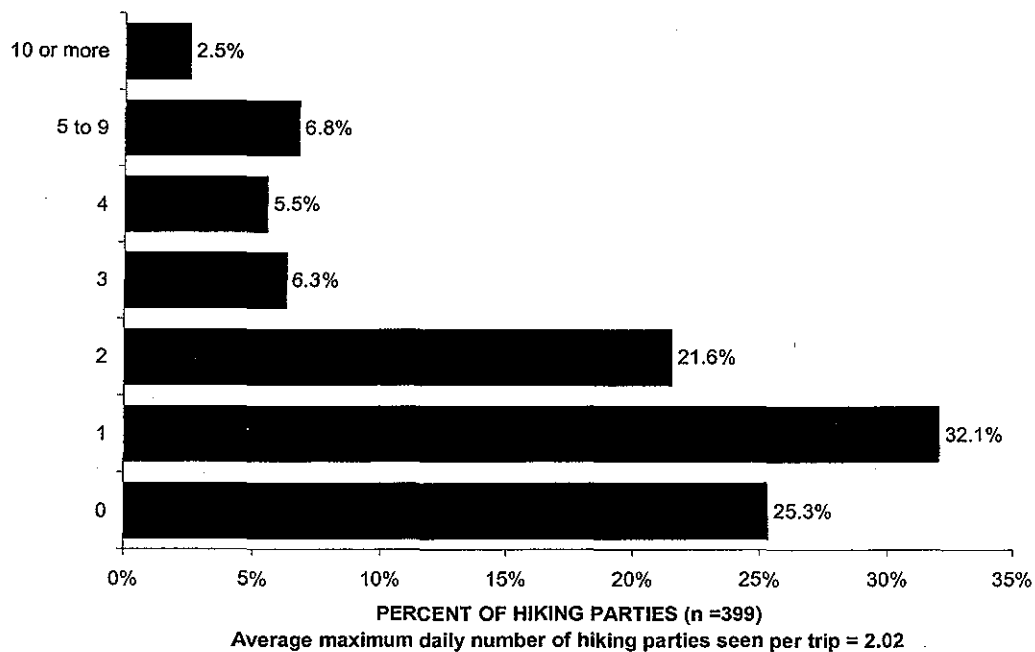


FIGURE G.2: Diary (aggregated), Q-5
MAXIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES SEEN PER TRIP



Appendix G: Encounters with Hiking Parties

FIGURE G.3: Diary (aggregated), Q-5
MINIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES SEEN PER TRIP

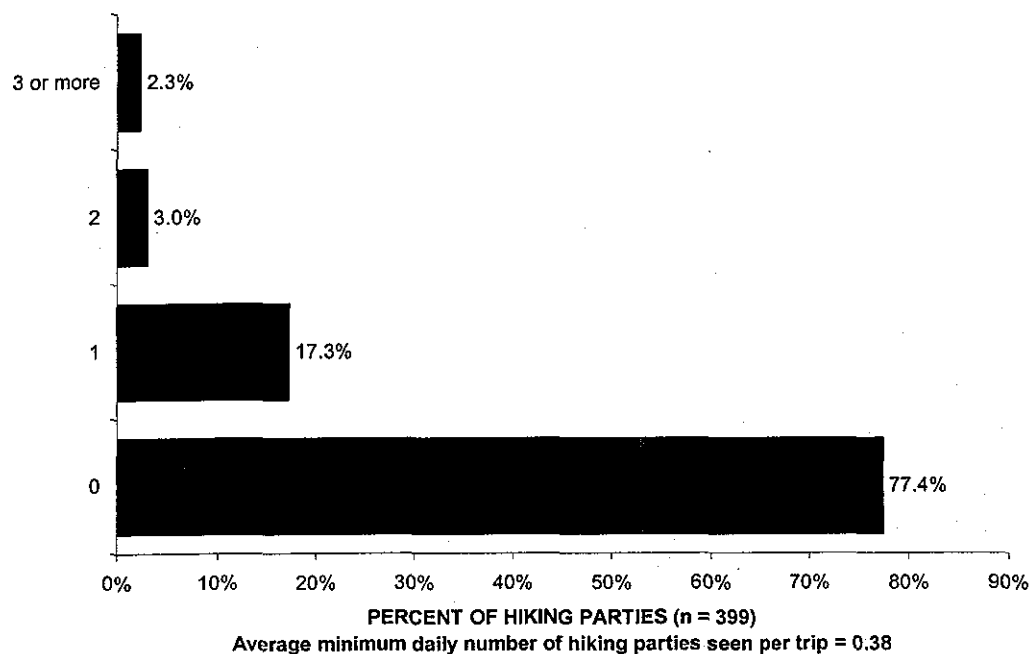
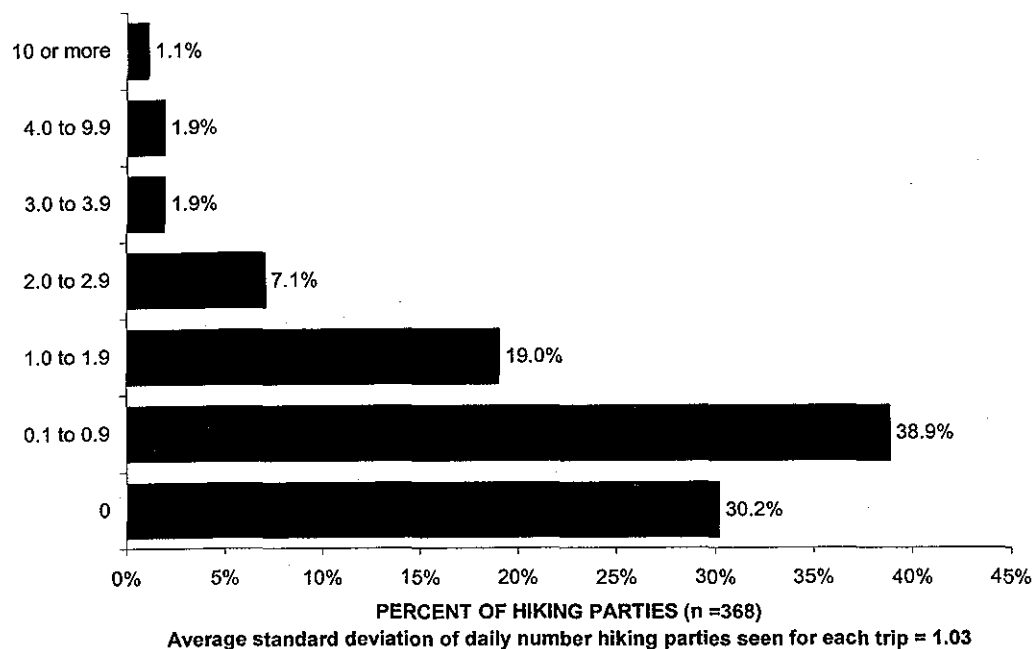
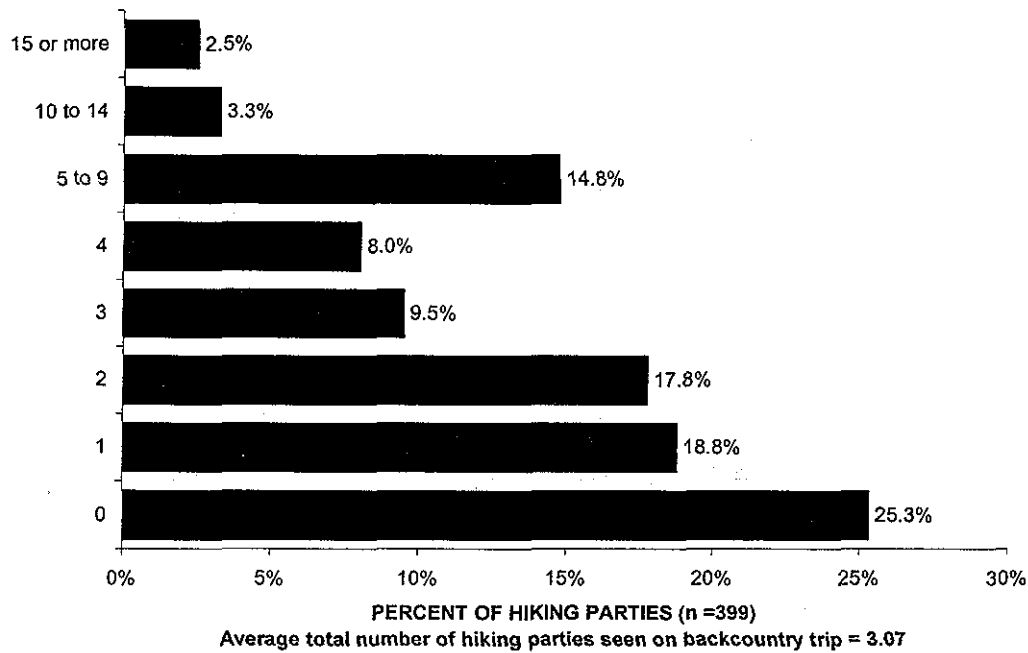


FIGURE G.4: Diary (aggregated), Q-5
STANDARD DEVIATION OF DAILY NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES SEEN FOR EACH TRIP



Appendix G: Encounters with Hiking Parties

FIGURE G.5: Diary (aggregated), Q-5
TOTAL NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES SEEN ON BACKCOUNTRY TRIP

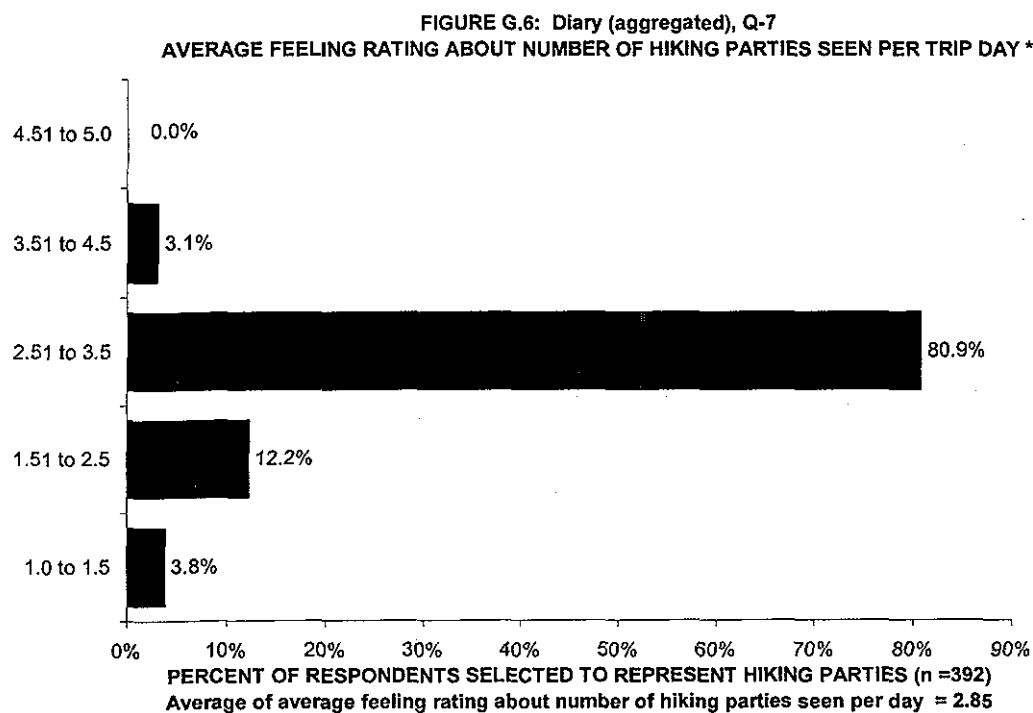


Feelings about Number of Hiking Parties Seen Today

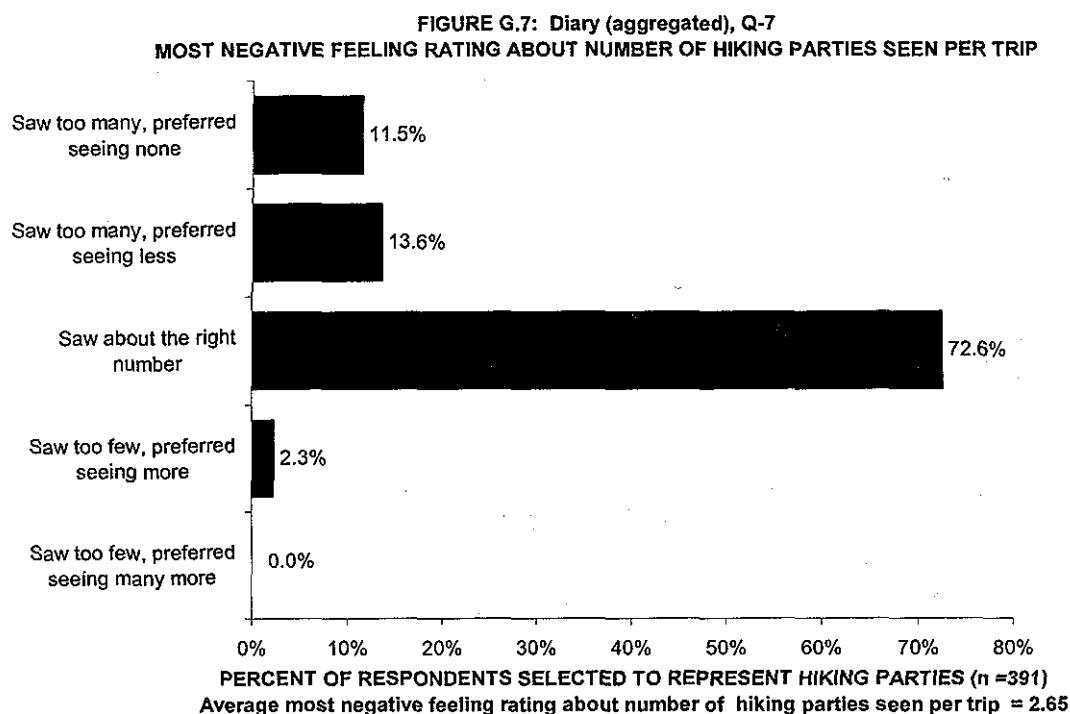
Diary, Versions 1 & 2

7. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties you saw today? (*List number that describes your feelings*)
1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none
 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less
 3. Saw about the right number
 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more
 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more

Appendix G: Encounters with Hiking Parties



*Taking the average results in values that fall between the response options



Appendix G: Encounters with Hiking Parties

FIGURE G.8: Diary (aggregated), Q-7
MOST POSITIVE FEELING RATING ABOUT NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES SEEN PER TRIP DAY

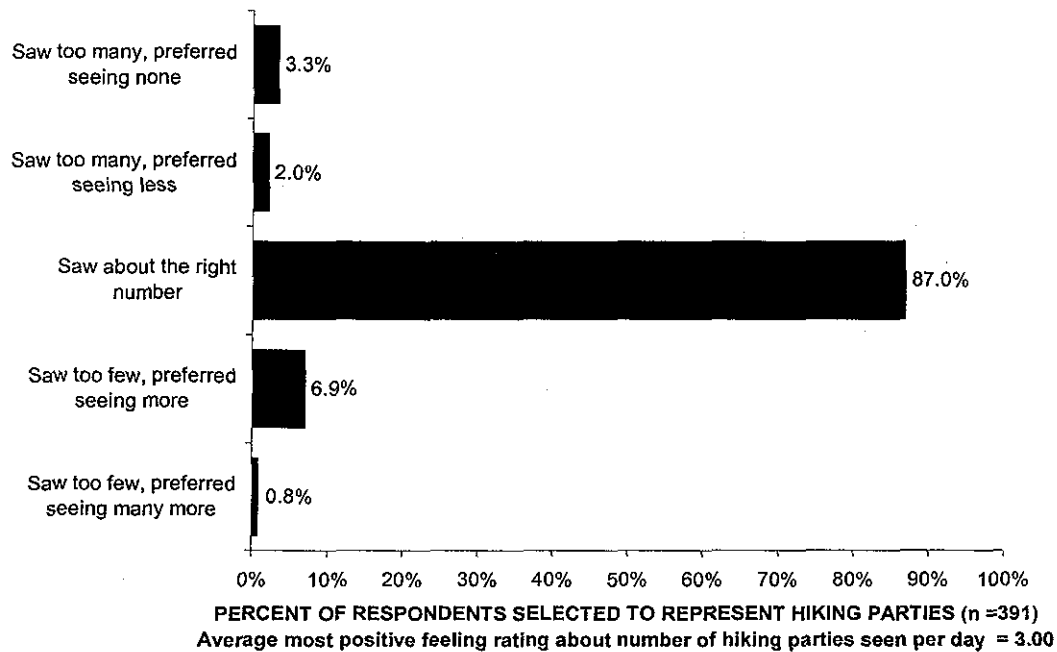
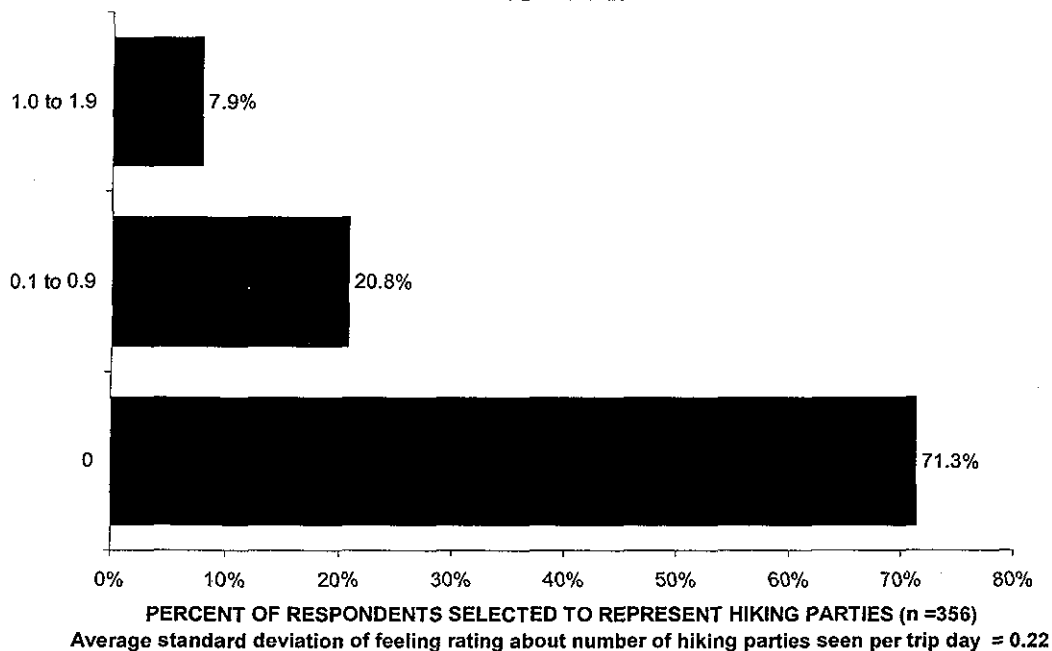


FIGURE G.9: Diary (aggregated), Q-7
STANDARD DEVIATION OF FEELING RATING ABOUT NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES SEEN PER TRIP DAY



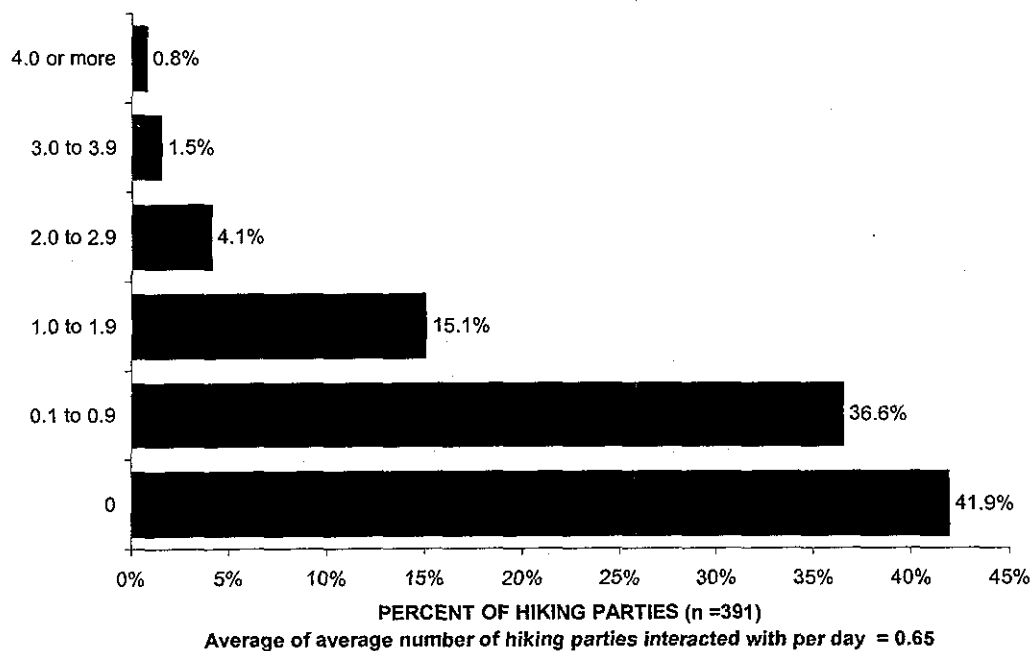
Appendix G: Encounters with Hiking Parties

Number of Hiking Parties Interacted with Each Day

Diary, Versions 1 & 2

6. How many times did you interact with hiking parties today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal). _____

FIGURE G.10: Diary (aggregated), Q-6
AVERAGE NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES INTERACTED WITH PER TRIP DAY



Appendix G: Encounters with Hiking Parties

FIGURE G.11: Diary (aggregated), Q-6
MAXIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES INTERACTED WITH PER TRIP

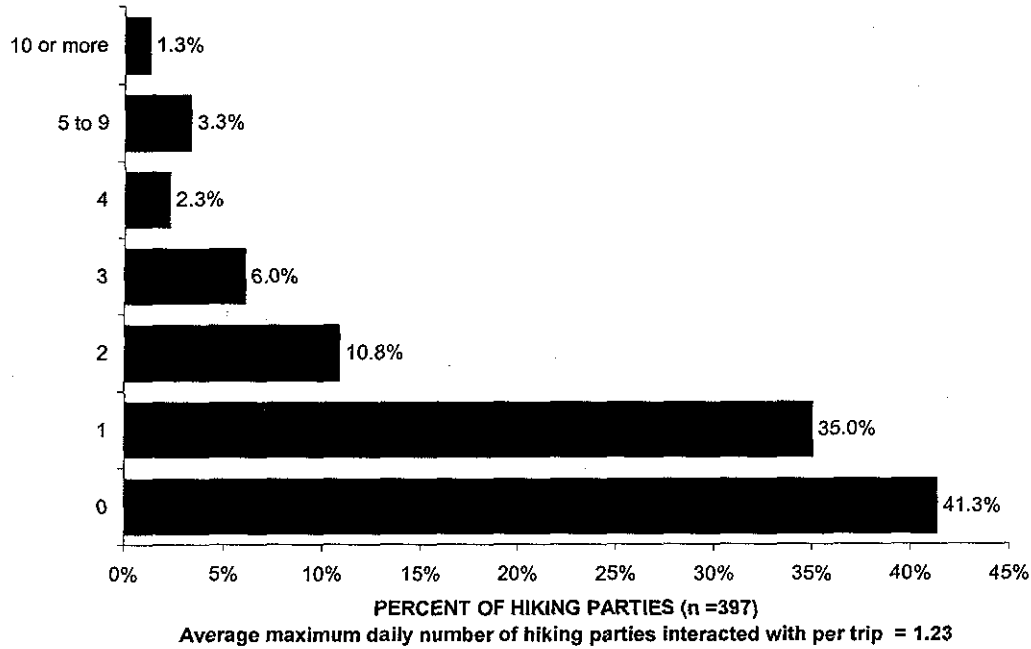
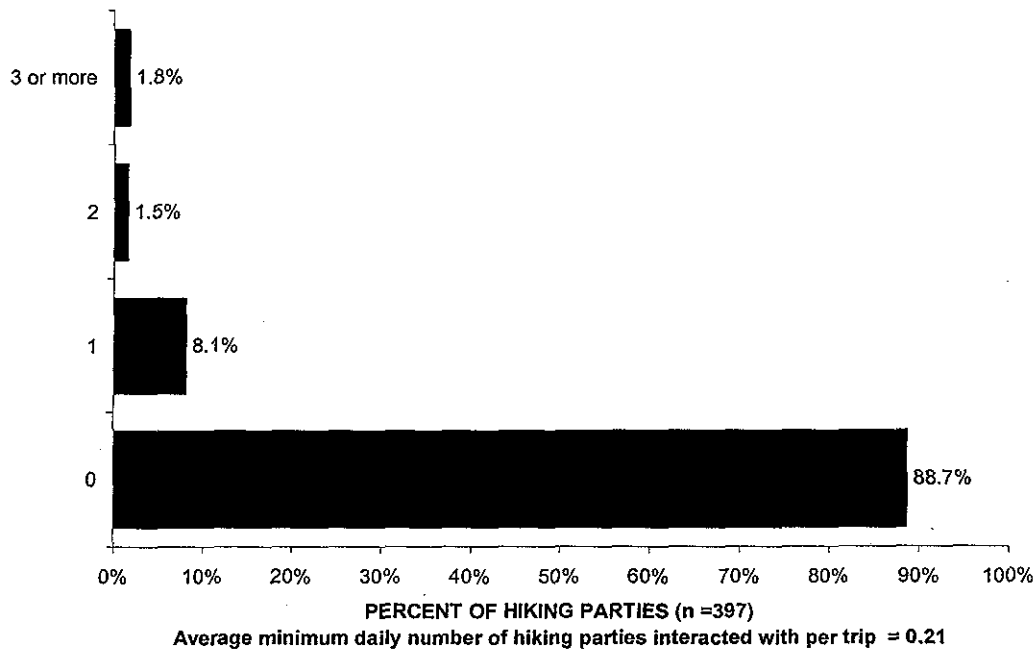


FIGURE G.12: Diary (aggregated), Q-6
MINIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES INTERACTED WITH PER TRIP



Appendix G: Encounters with Hiking Parties

FIGURE G.13: Diary (aggregated), Q-6
STANDARD DEVIATION OF DAILY NUMBER HIKING PARTIES INTERACTED WITH ON EACH TRIP

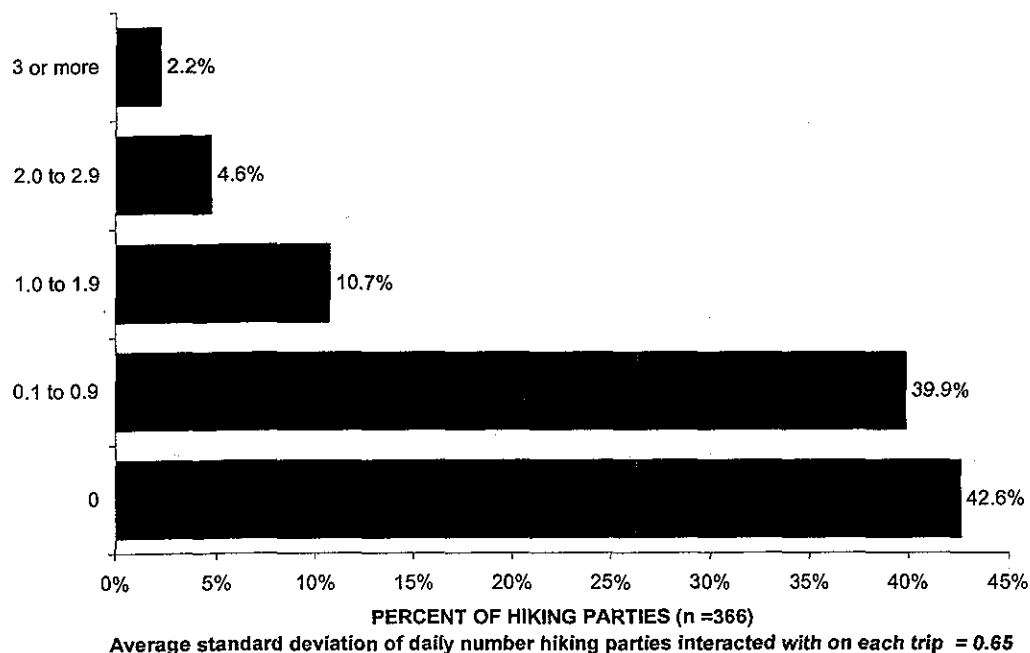
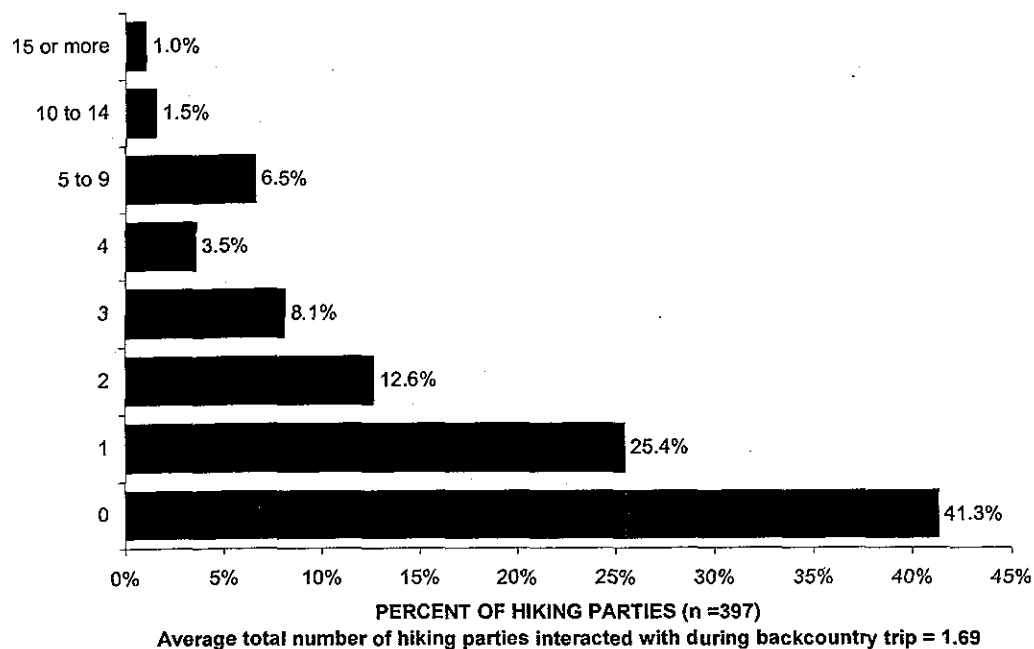


FIGURE G.14: Diary (aggregated), Q-6
TOTAL NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES INTERACTED WITH DURING BACKCOUNTRY TRIP



Appendix H: Encounters with Hiking Parties Camped Nearby

Two questions filled out daily in both versions of the diary asked backpackers to report on the number of hiking parties camped within sight and/or sound and how they felt about the number of hiking parties camped within sight and/or sound (the questions are reproduced later in this appendix). Because data were collected on a daily basis and then aggregated to represent each backpacking party's trip, five summary figures represent data from the number of hiking parties camped nearby question and four summary figures represent data from the feeling question.

Number of Hiking Parties Camped within Sight and/or Sound per Day:

- The *Average per Trip Day* represents the total number of hiking parties camped within sight/sound reported during a trip divided by the number of trip days. Because partial hiking days could be reported on the first and/or last day of the diary, the presented averages are low estimates of hiking parties camped within sight/sound per full hiking day.
- The *Maximum Daily Number per Trip* represents the number of hiking parties camped within sight/sound reported on the day when the most hiking parties were camped nearby. For example, if a party on a three-day hiking trip reported seeing 2, 0, and 1 hiking parties camped nearby on each day, the maximum daily number of hiking parties camped nearby would be 2.
- The *Minimum Daily Number per Trip* is calculated in the same manner as the Maximum Daily Number, except that it represents the trip day when the fewest hiking parties were camped nearby (i.e., in the example above, the minimum daily number of hiking parties camped nearby would be 0).
- The *Standard Deviation per Trip Day* represents the variability in the daily number of hiking parties camped nearby reported across the days of each trip. The standard deviation is the conventional way of describing how much a group of scores (in this case, hikers camped nearby reported across multiple trip days) vary around the mean of that group (in this case, the Average per Trip Day).

Appendix H: Encounters with Hiking Parties Camped Nearby

- The *Total Number per Trip* is simply the total number of hiking parties camped nearby during a trip.

Feelings about the Number of Hiking Parties Camped within Sight/Sound per Day:

- The *Average Feeling Rating about Number of Hiking Parties Camped Nearby per Trip Day* represents the sum of the feeling ratings of the number of hiking parties camped nearby each day divided by the number of trip days for a respondent selected to represent a party. Days may include partial hiking days from the first and/or last day of the diary.
- The *Most Negative Feeling Rating about Number of Hiking Parties Camped within Sight/Sound per Trip Day* represents the day that had the most negative rating for number of hiking parties camped within sight/sound for a respondent selected to represent a party. For example, if a party on a three-day hiking trip reported feeling a 2, 3, and 4 for each of the days, the most negative rating feeling rating would be 2 (Saw too many, preferred seeing less).
- The *Most Positive Feeling Rating about Number of Hiking Parties Camped within Sight/Sound per Trip Day* represents the day that had the most positive rating for number of hiking parties camped within sight/sound for a respondent selected to represent a party. In the above example, the most positive feeling rating would be 4 (Saw too few, preferred seeing more).
- The *Standard Deviation of Feeling Ratings about the Number of Hiking Parties Camped within Sight/Sound per Trip Day* represents the variability in the daily feeling ratings for the number of hiking parties camped within sight/sound across the days of each trip. The standard deviation is the conventional way of describing how much a group of scores (in this case, feeling ratings for multiple trip days) vary around the mean of that group (in this case, the Average Feeling Rating per Trip Day).

Number of Hiking Parties Camped within Sight and/or Sound per Day

Diary, Versions 1 & 2

12. How many hiking parties are camped within sight or sound of your camp today? (If you did not camp, write "NA" for Q-12 and for Q-13.) _____

Appendix H: Encounters with Hiking Parties Camped Nearby

FIGURE H.1: Diary (aggregated), Q-12
AVERAGE NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES CAMPED WITHIN SIGHT OR SOUND

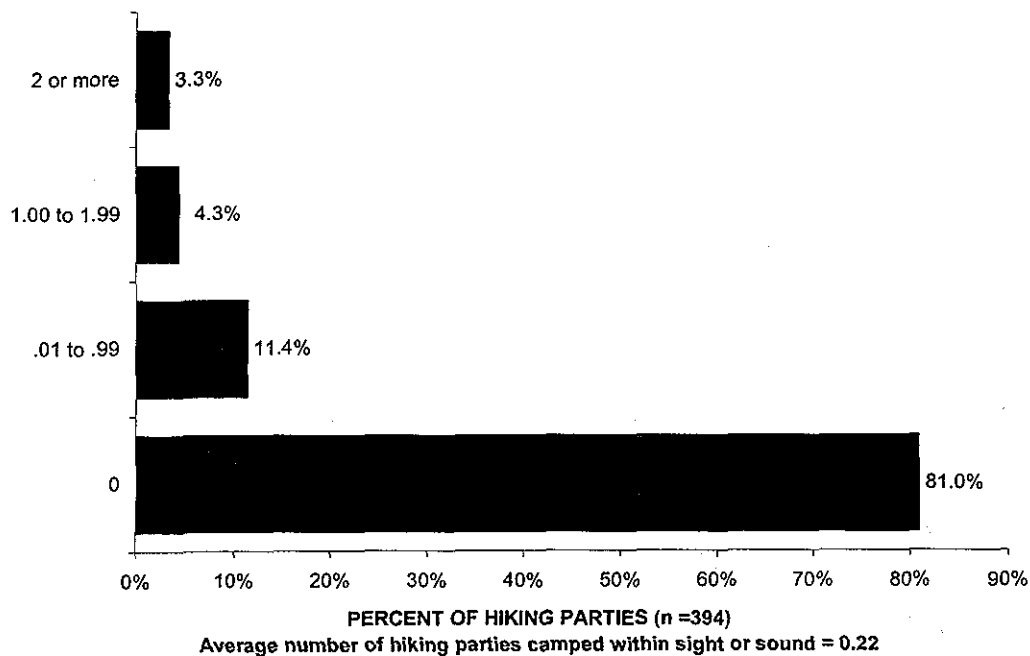
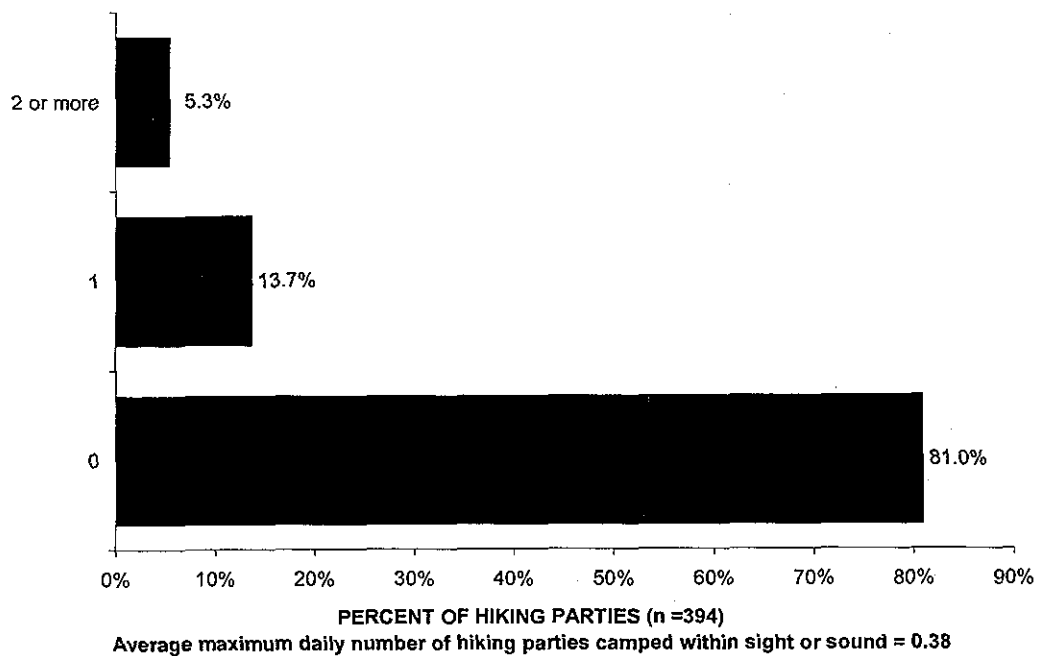


FIGURE H.2: Diary (aggregated), Q-12
MAXIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES CAMPED WITHIN SIGHT OR SOUND



Appendix H: Encounters with Hiking Parties Camped Nearby

FIGURE H.3: Diary (aggregated), Q-12
MINIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES CAMPED WITHIN SIGHT OR SOUND

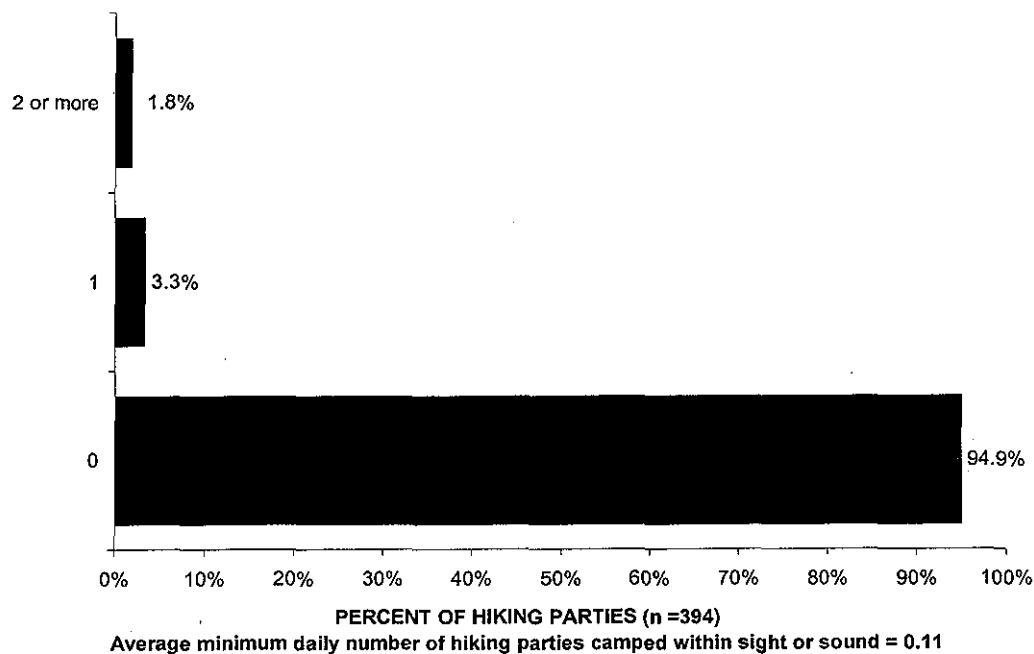
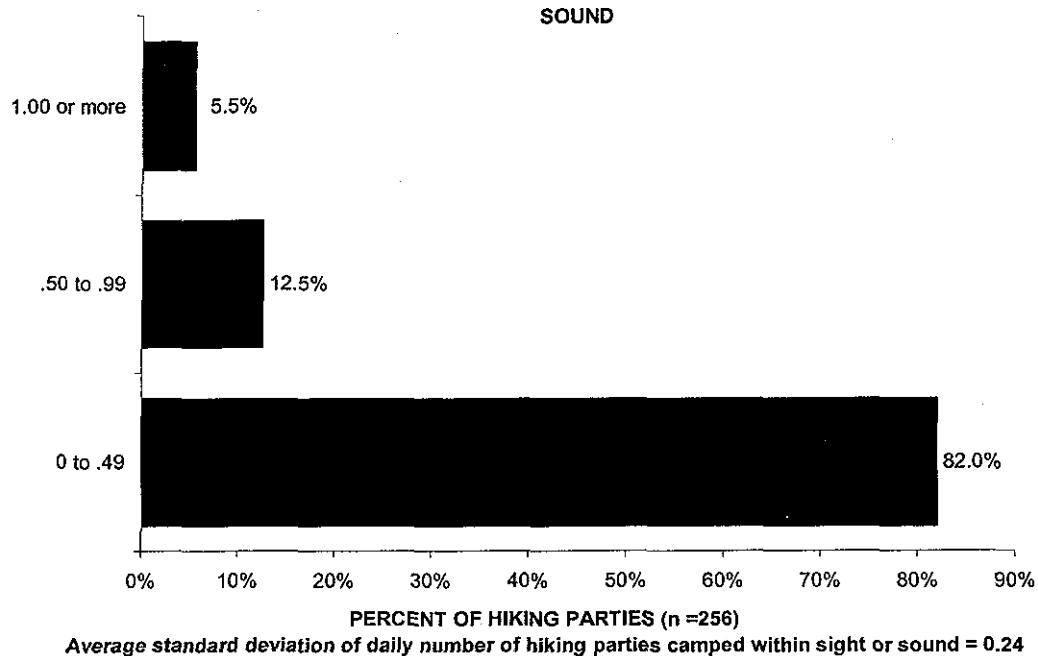
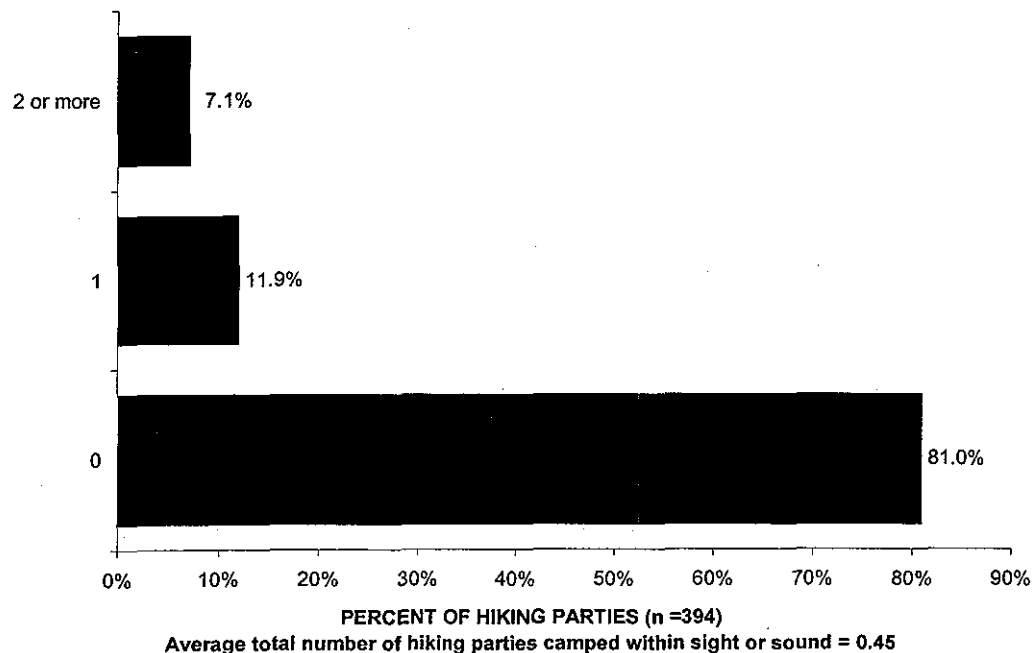


FIGURE H.4: Diary (aggregated), Q-12
STANDARD DEVIATION OF DAILY NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES CAMPED WITHIN SIGHT OR SOUND



Appendix H: Encounters with Hiking Parties Camped Nearby

FIGURE H.5: Diary (aggregated), Q-12
TOTAL NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES CAMPED WITHIN SIGHT OR SOUND

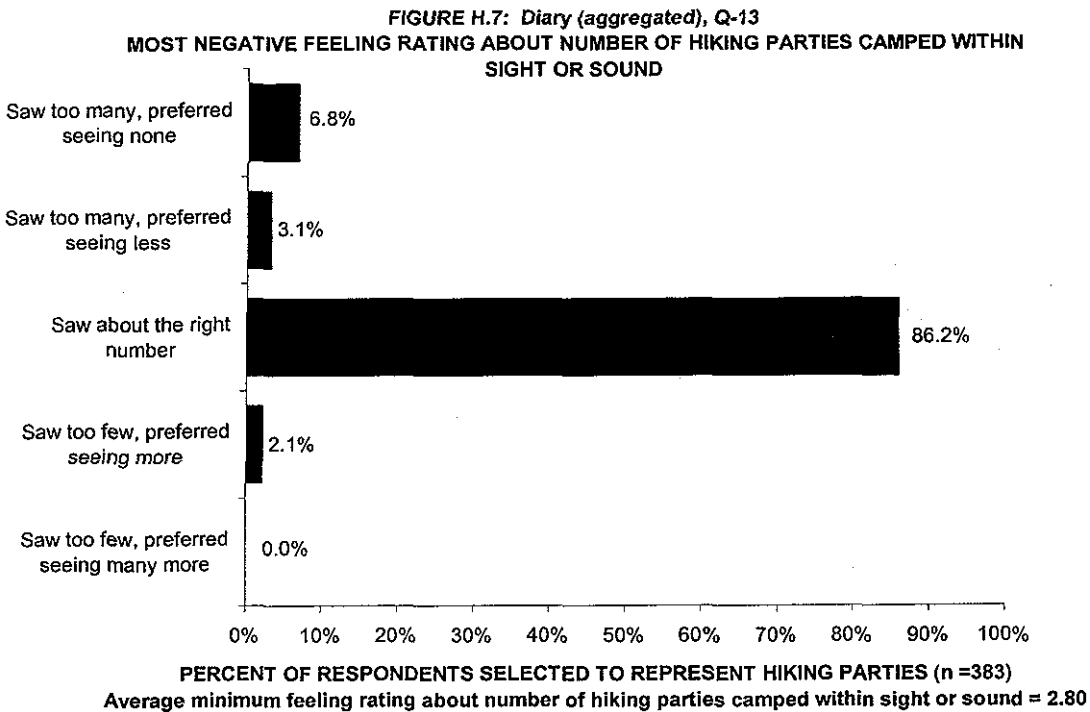
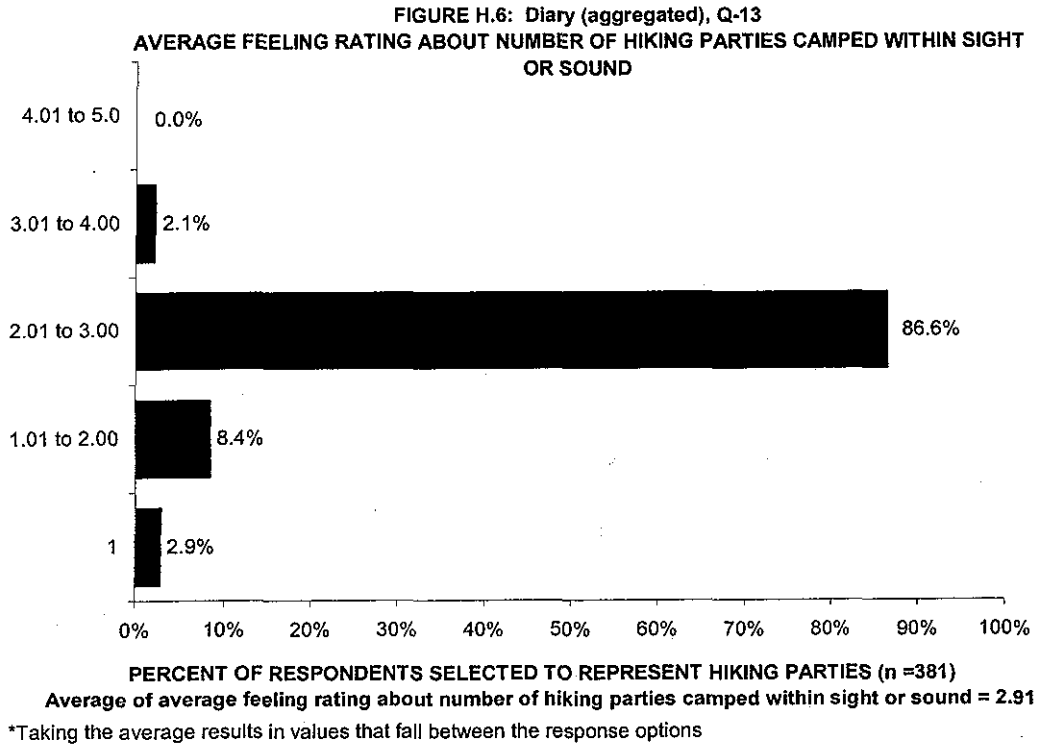


Feelings about the Number of Hiking Parties Camped within Sight and/or Sound per Day

Diary, Versions 1 & 2

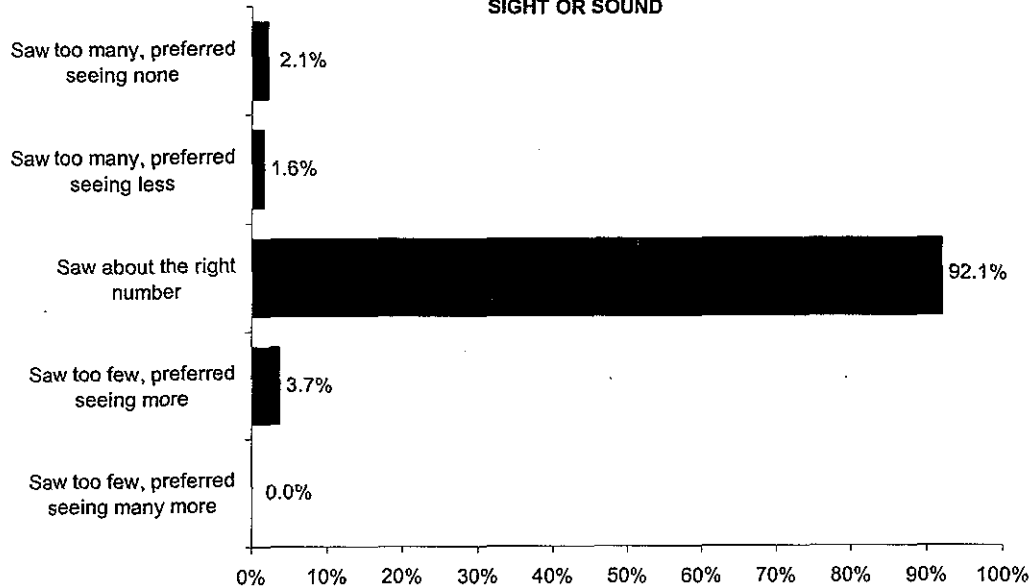
13. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound of your camp? (*List number*)
1. Saw too many, preferred seeing none
 2. Saw too many, preferred seeing less
 3. Saw about the right number
 4. Saw too few, preferred seeing more
 5. Saw too few, preferred seeing many more

Appendix H: Encounters with Hiking Parties Camped Nearby



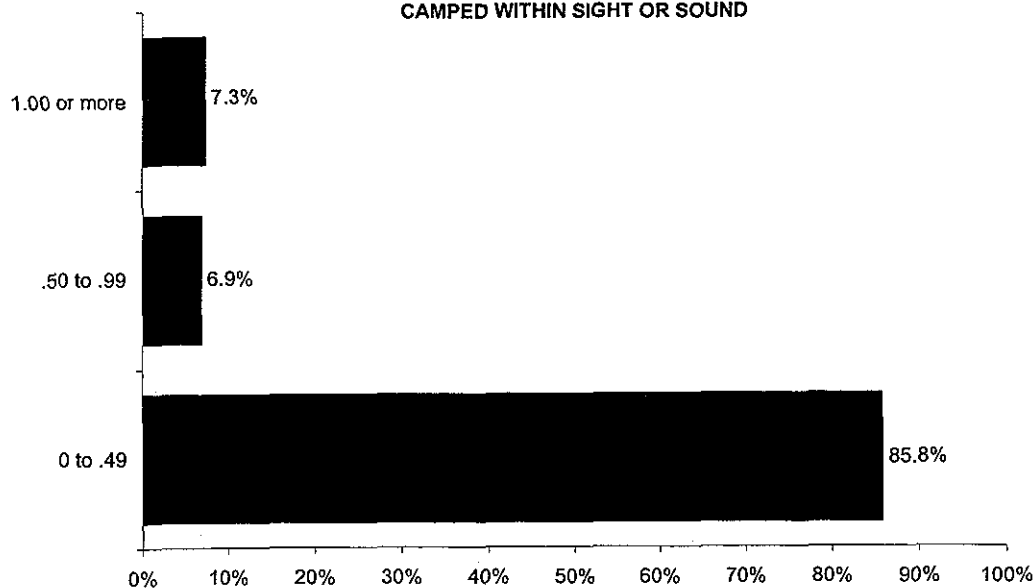
Appendix H: Encounters with Hiking Parties Camped Nearby

FIGURE H.8: Diary (aggregated), Q-13
MOST POSITIVE FEELING RATING ABOUT NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES CAMPED WITHIN SIGHT OR SOUND



PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS SELECTED TO REPRESENT HIKING PARTIES (n = 381)
Average most positive feeling rating about number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound = 2.97

FIGURE H.9: Diary (aggregated), Q-13
STANDARD DEVIATION OF FEELING RATING ABOUT NUMBER OF HIKING PARTIES CAMPED WITHIN SIGHT OR SOUND



PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS SELECTED TO REPRESENT HIKING PARTIES (n = 247)
Average standard deviation of feeling rating about number of hiking parties camped within sight or sound = 0.15

Appendix I: Encounters with Park Rangers

Two questions filled out daily in Version 2 of the diary asked backpackers to report on the number of park rangers seen and the number of park rangers with which they interacted (the questions are reproduced later in this appendix). Because data were collected on a daily basis and then aggregated to represent each backpacking party's trip, five summary figures represent data from the number of park rangers seen question and the number of park rangers interacted with question.

Number of Park Rangers Seen Today:

- The *Average per Trip Day* represents the total number of park rangers seen reported during a trip divided by the number of trip days. Because partial hiking days could be reported on the first and/or last day of the diary, the presented averages are low estimates of park rangers seen per full hiking day.
- The *Maximum Daily Number per Trip* represents the number of park rangers seen reported on the day when the most park rangers were seen. For example, if a party on a three-day hiking trip reported seeing 2, 0, and 1 park rangers on each day, the maximum daily number of park rangers seen would be 2.
- The *Minimum Daily Number per Trip* is calculated in the same manner as the Maximum Daily Number, except that it represents the trip day when the fewest park rangers were seen (i.e., in the example above, the minimum daily number of park rangers would be 0).
- The *Standard Deviation per Trip Day* represents the variability in the daily number of park rangers seen reported across the days of each trip. The standard deviation is the conventional way of describing how much a group of scores (in this case, park rangers seen reported across multiple trip days) vary around the mean of that group (in this case, the Average per Trip Day).
- The *Total Number per Trip* is simply the total number of park rangers seen during a trip.

Number of Interactions with Park Rangers Today:

- The *Average per Trip Day* represents the total number of interactions with park rangers reported divided by the number of trip days. Because partial hiking days could be

Appendix I: Encounters with Park Rangers

reported on the first and/or last day of the diary, the presented averages are low estimates of interactions with park rangers per full hiking day.

- The *Maximum Daily Number per Trip* represents the number of interactions with park rangers reported on the day when the hiking party interacted with the most park rangers. For example, if a party on a three-day hiking trip reported interacting with 2, 0, and 1 park rangers on each day, the maximum daily number of park rangers interacted with would be 2.
- The *Minimum Daily Number per Trip* is calculated in the same manner as the Maximum Daily Number, except that it represents the trip day when the hiking party interacted with the fewest park rangers (i.e., in the example above, the minimum daily number of park rangers interacted with would be 0).
- The *Standard Deviation per Trip Day* represents the variability in the daily number of interactions with park rangers across the days of each trip. The standard deviation is the conventional way of describing how much a group of scores (in this case, interactions with park rangers reported across multiple trip days) vary around the mean of that group (in this case, the Average per Trip Day).
- The *Total Number per Trip* is simply the total number of interactions with park rangers during a trip.

Number of Park Rangers Seen per Day

Diary, Version 2

10. How many different park rangers did you see today? _____

Appendix I: Encounters with Park Rangers

FIGURE I.1: Diary (aggregated), Q-10
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PARK RANGERS SEEN PER TRIP DAY

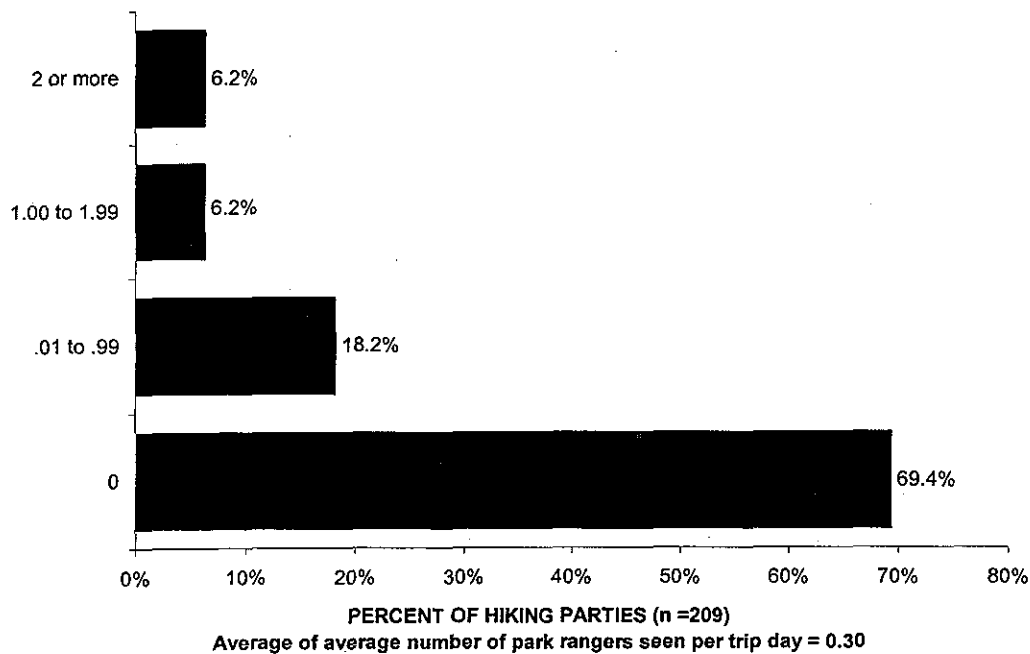
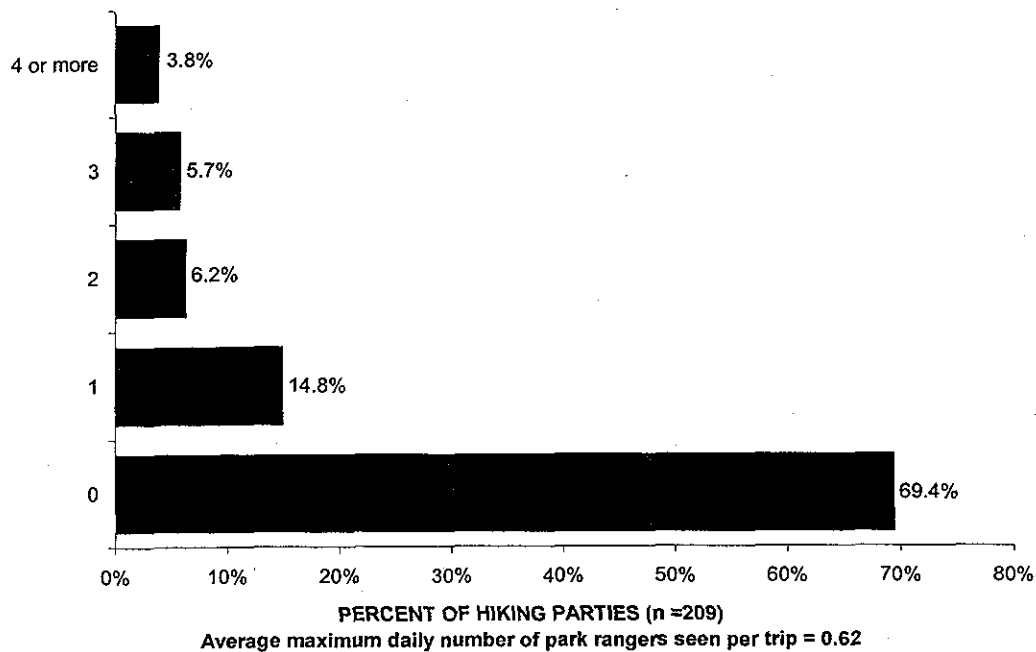


FIGURE I.2: Diary (aggregated), Q-10
MAXIMUM DAILY NUMBER PARK RANGERS SEEN PER TRIP



Appendix I: Encounters with Park Rangers

FIGURE I.3: Diary (aggregated), Q-10
MINIMUM DAILY NUMBER PARK RANGERS SEEN PER TRIP

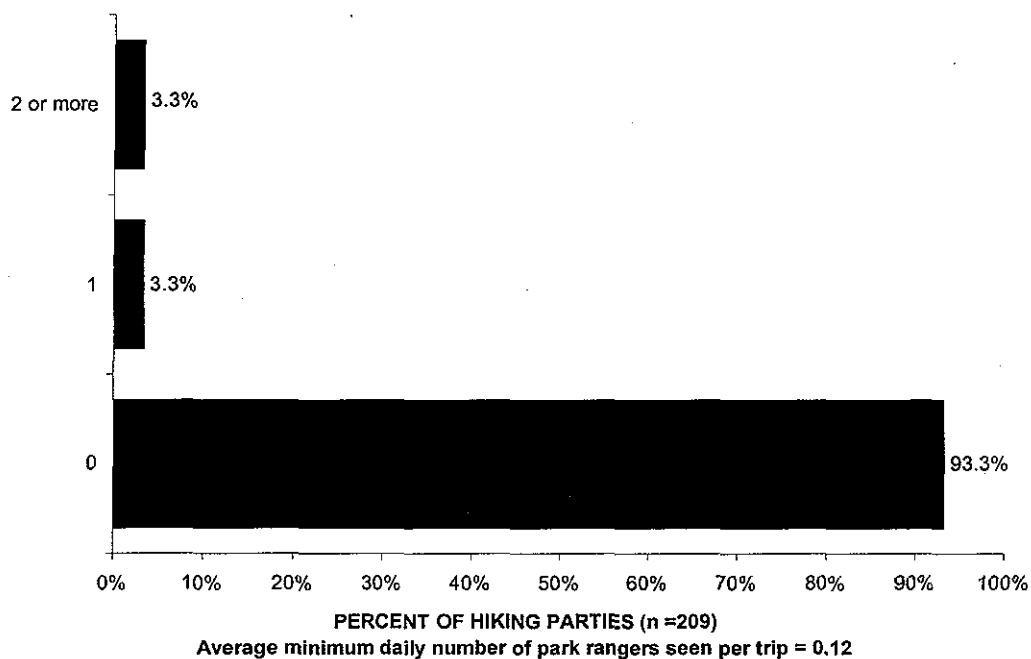
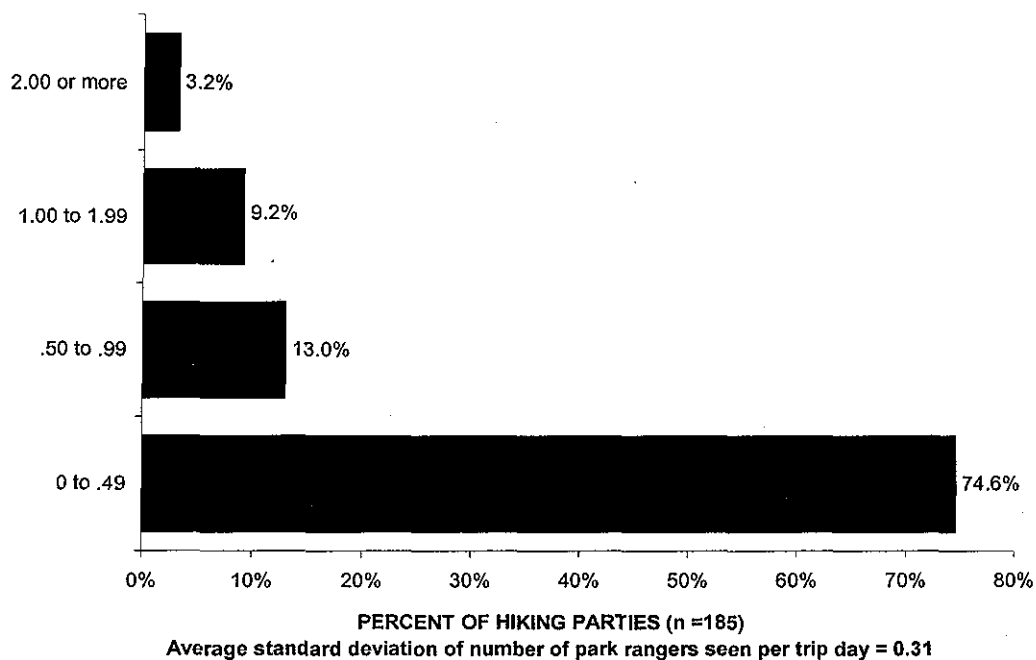
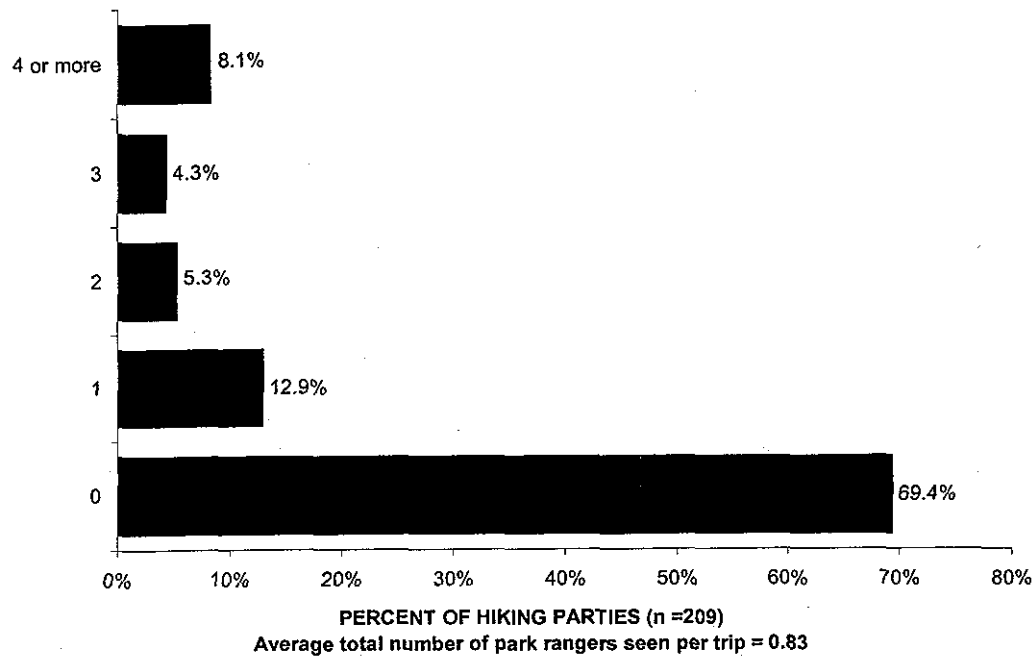


FIGURE I.4: Diary (aggregated), Q-10
STANDARD DEVIATION OF NUMBER OF PARK RANGERS SEEN PER TRIP DAY



Appendix I: Encounters with Park Rangers

FIGURE I.5: Diary (aggregated), Q-10
TOTAL NUMBER PARK RANGERS SEEN PER TRIP



Number of Interactions with Park Rangers per Day

Diary, Version 2

11. How many times did you interact with park rangers today? (e.g., talk to or exchange greetings, either verbal or non-verbal) _____

Appendix I: Encounters with Park Rangers

FIGURE I.6: Diary (aggregated), Q-11
AVERAGE NUMBER OF INTERACTIONS WITH PARK RANGERS PER TRIP DAY

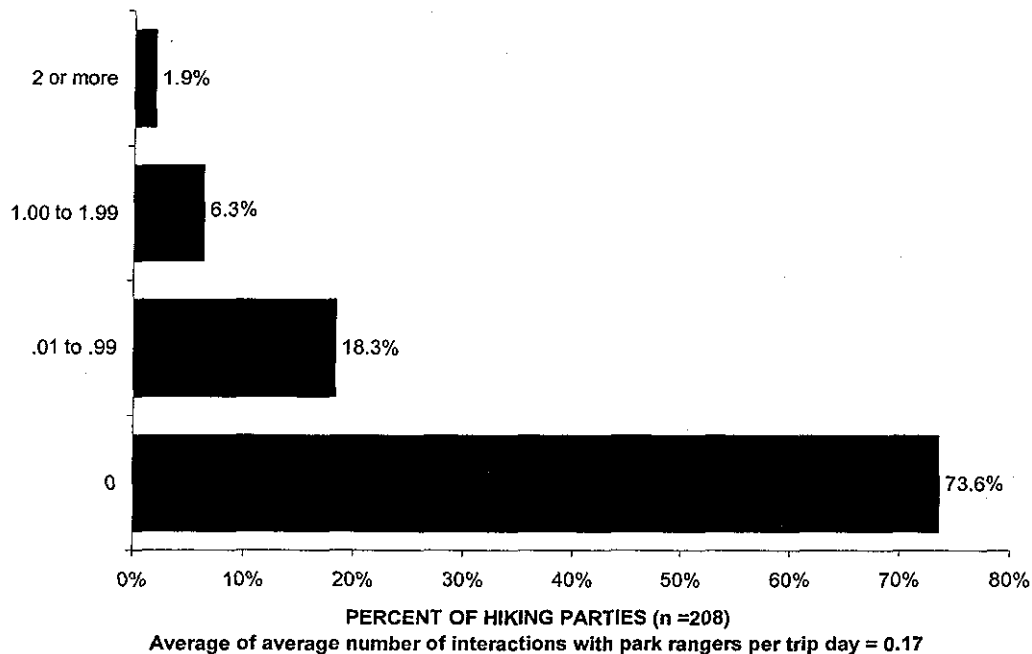
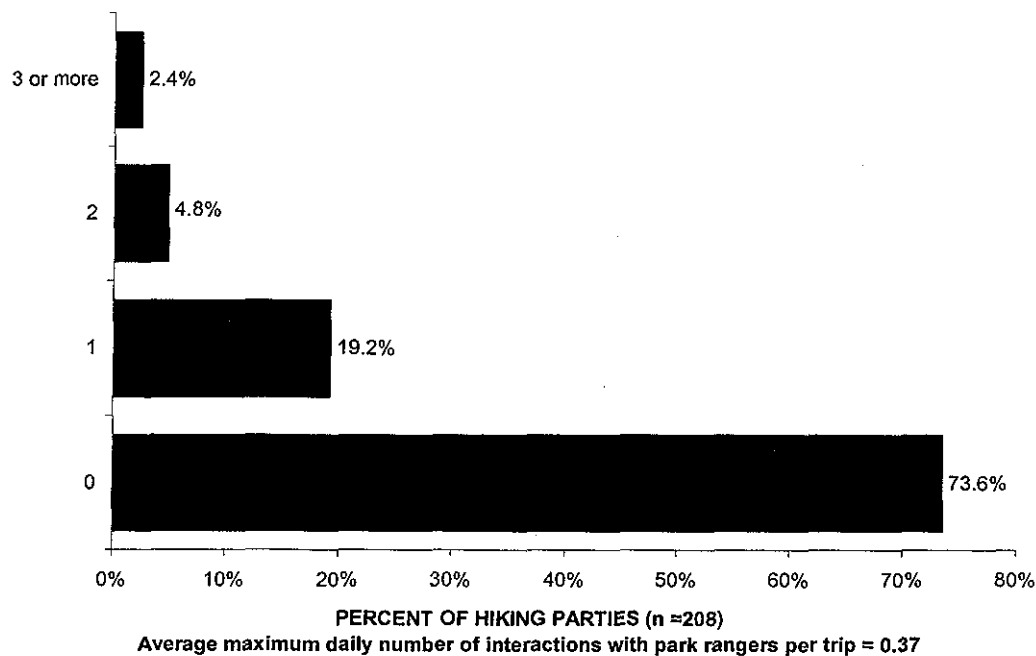


FIGURE I.7: Diary (aggregated), Q-11
MAXIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF INTERACTIONS WITH PARK RANGERS PER TRIP



Appendix I: Encounters with Park Rangers

FIGURE I.8: Diary (aggregated), Q-11
MINIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF INTERACTIONS WITH PARK RANGERS PER TRIP

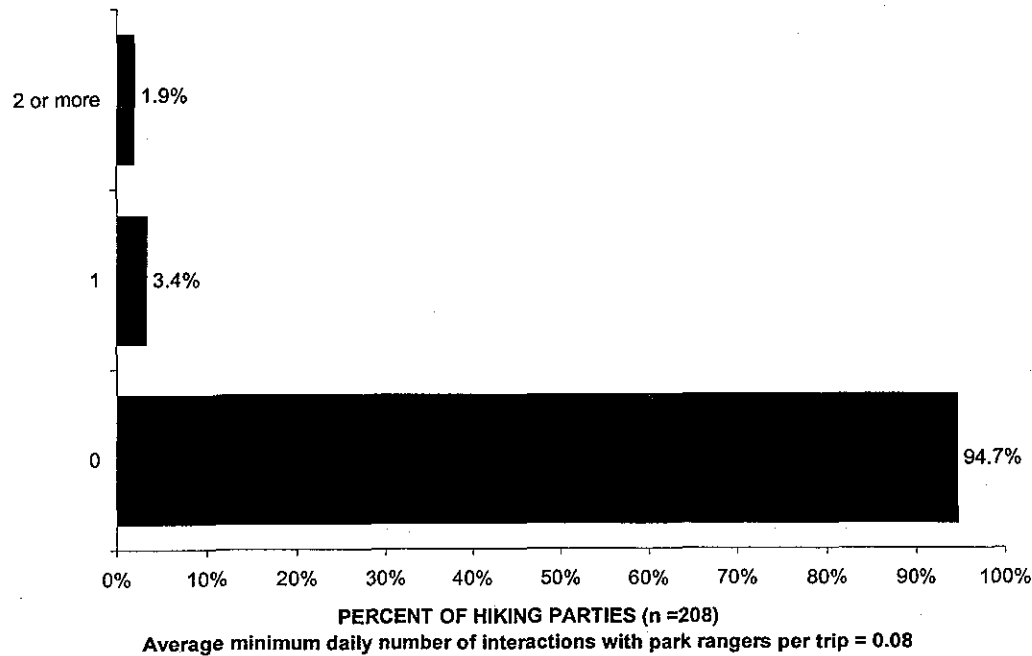
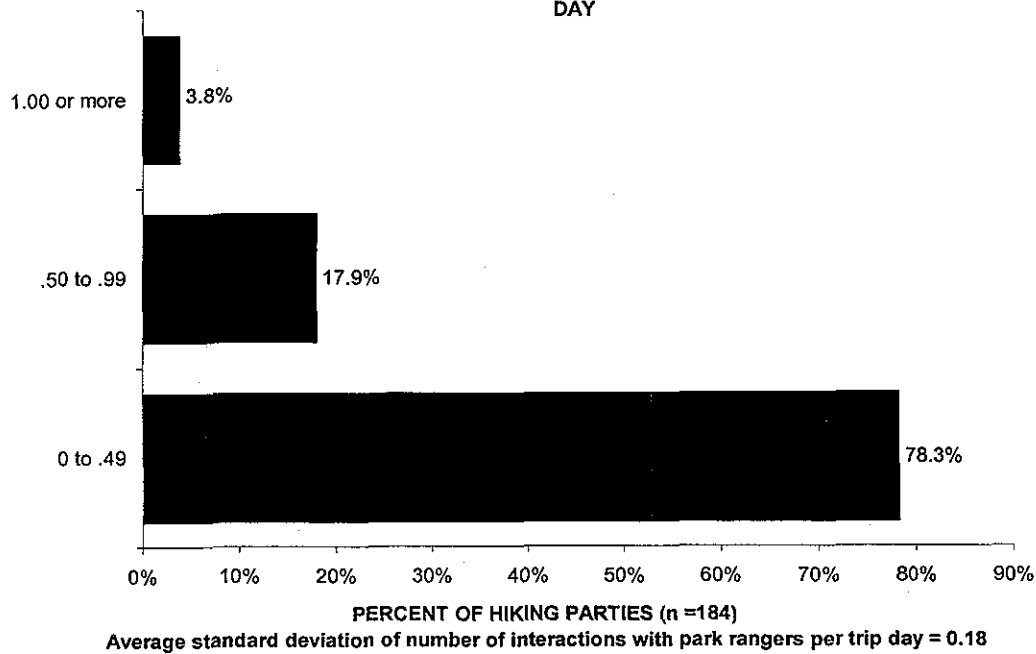
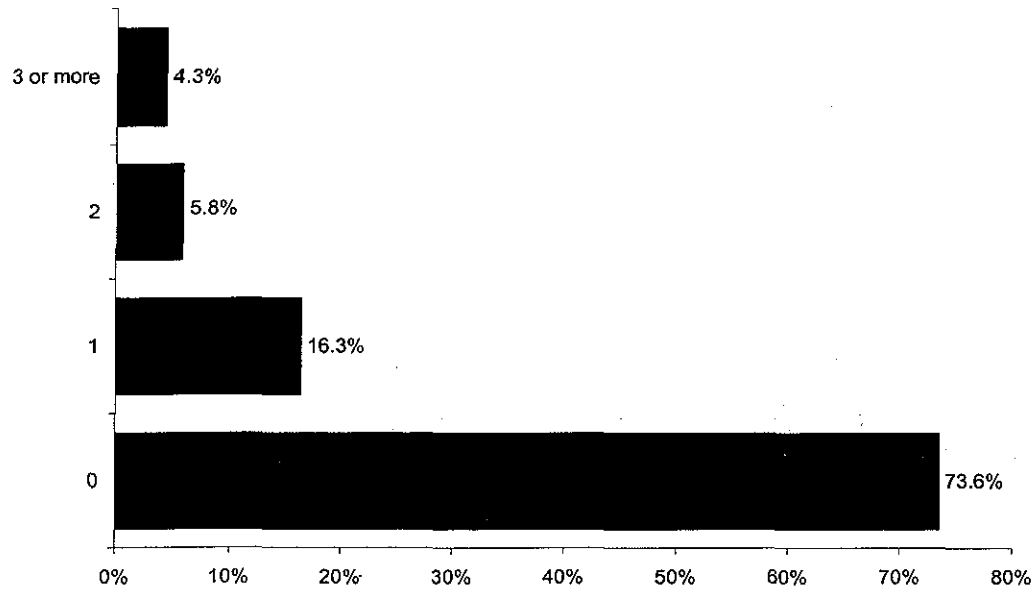


FIGURE I.9: Diary (aggregated), Q-11
STANDARD DEVIATION OF NUMBER OF INTERACTIONS WITH PARK RANGERS PER TRIP DAY



Appendix I: Encounters with Park Rangers

FIGURE I.10: Diary (aggregated), Q-11
TOTAL NUMBER OF INTERACTIONS WITH PARK RANGERS PER TRIP



PERCENT OF HIKING PARTIES (n =208)
Average total number of interactions with park rangers per trip = 0.48

Appendix J: Encounters With Various Types of Aircraft During Backpackers' Trips

Two questions filled out daily in Version 1 of the trip diary asked backpacking parties to report the number of aircraft they heard or saw (each question is reproduced below). The first question asked about aircraft in general, whereas the second question¹ asked specifically about the number of propeller planes, helicopters, jets, and other aircraft². Because data were collected on a daily basis and then aggregated to represent each backpacking party's trip, six summary figures represent the data from each question or sub-question in the diary:

- The *Average per Trip Day* represents the total number of aircraft (of a particular type) reported during a trip divided by the number of trip days. Because partial hiking days could be recorded on the first and/or last day of the diary, the presented averages are low estimates of aircraft encounters per full hiking day.
- The *Maximum Daily Number per Trip* represents the number of aircraft (of a particular type) reported on the day when the most aircraft (of that type) were heard or seen. For example, if a party on a three-day hiking trip reported seeing 4, 0, and 2 propeller planes, the Maximum Daily Number of Propeller Planes would be 4.
- The *Minimum Daily Number per Trip* is calculated in the same manner as the Maximum Daily Number, except that it represents the trip day when the fewest aircraft (of a particular type) were heard or seen (i.e., in the example, the Minimum Daily Number of Propeller Planes would be 0).
- The *Standard Deviation per Trip Day* represents the variability in the daily number of aircraft (of a particular type) reported across the days of each trip. The standard deviation is the conventional way of describing how much a group of

¹ These two questions were not contiguous in the diary but are reported together in this appendix to improve the logical flow of the information.

² The "Other Aircraft" category was almost always used for aircraft that were not specifically classified as prop planes, helicopters, or jets.

Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

scores (in this case, aircraft encounters reported across multiple trip days) vary around the mean of that group (in this case, the Average per Trip Day).

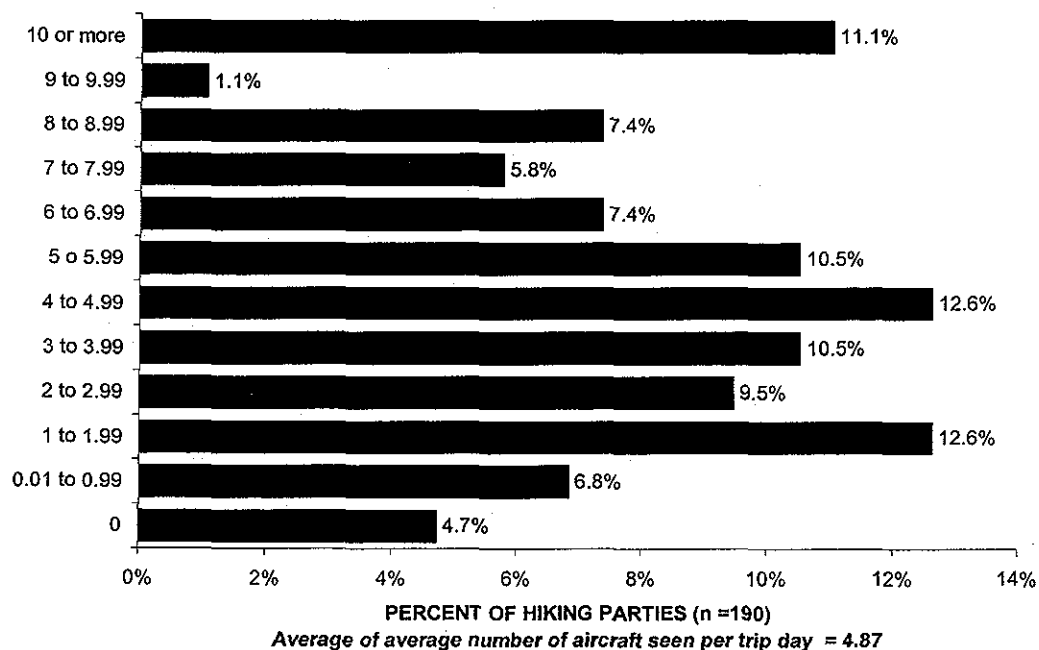
- The *Total Number per Trip* is simply the total number of aircraft (of a particular type) reported during a trip.
- The *Percentage of Trip Days that Respondents Saw/Heard Aircraft* represents the number of trip days for which the total number of aircraft (of a particular type) reported was more than zero divided by the total number of trip days.

Encounters with Aircraft in General

Diary, Version 1

8. How many times did you hear or see aircraft today? (If none, write "0" and skip to question 12)

FIGURE J.1: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-8
AVERAGE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT SEEN PER TRIP DAY



Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

FIGURE J.2: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-8
MAXIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT SEEN PER TRIP

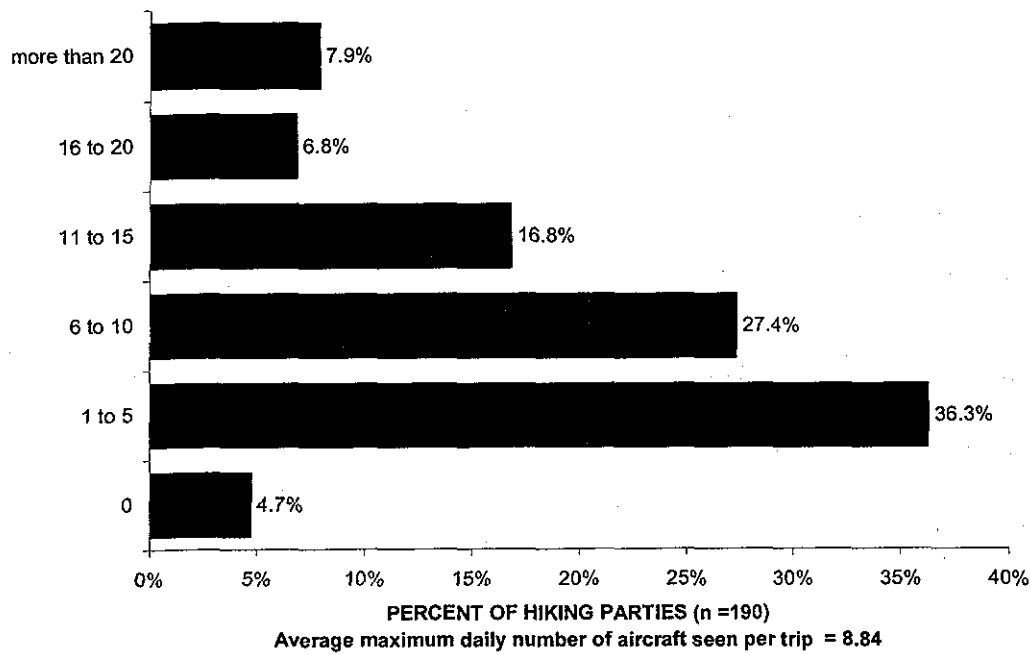
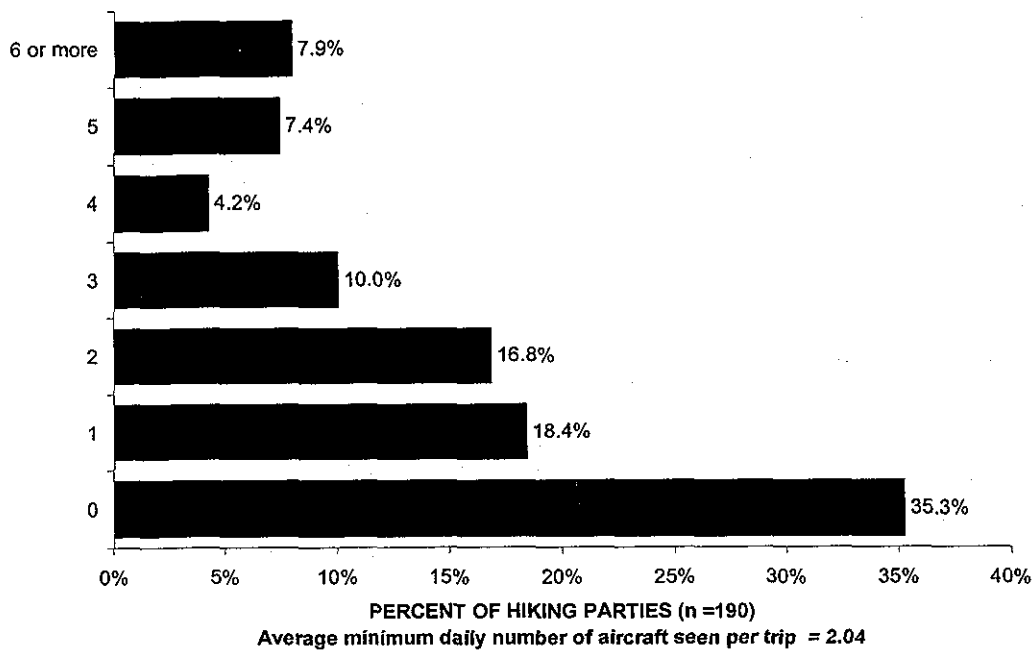


FIGURE J.3: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-8
MINIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT SEEN PER TRIP



Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

FIGURE J.4: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-8
STANDARD DEVIATION OF NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT SEEN PER TRIP DAY

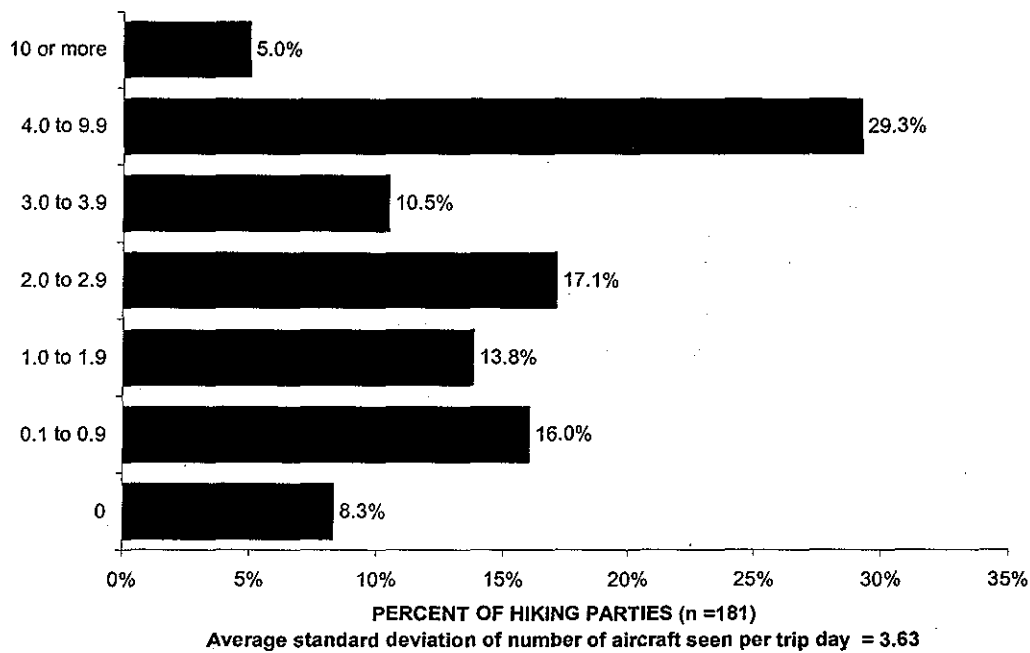
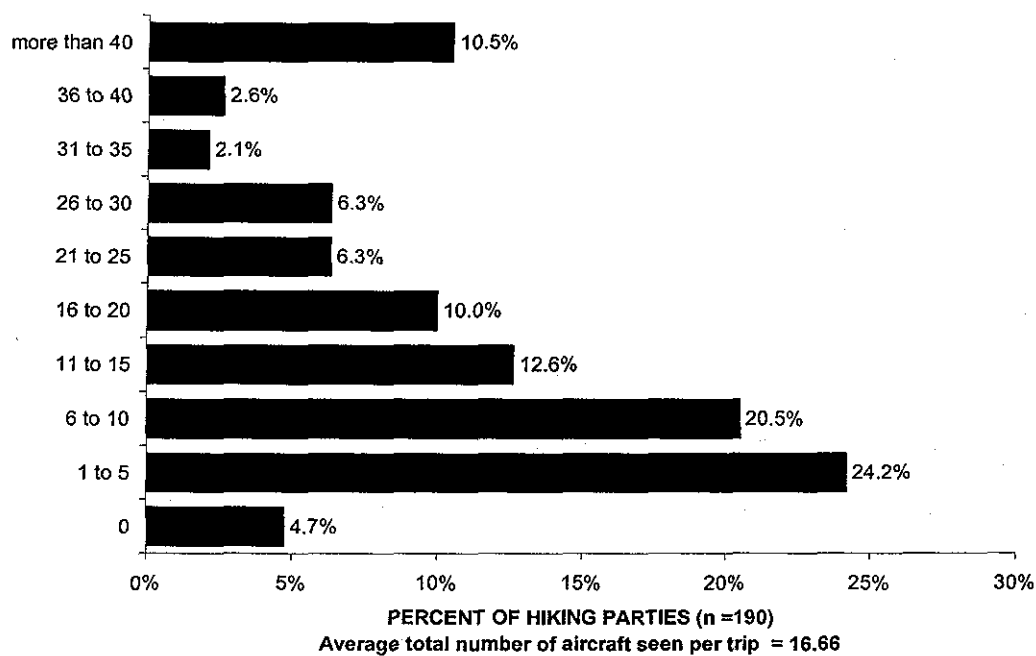


FIGURE J.5: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-8
TOTAL NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT SEEN PER TRIP



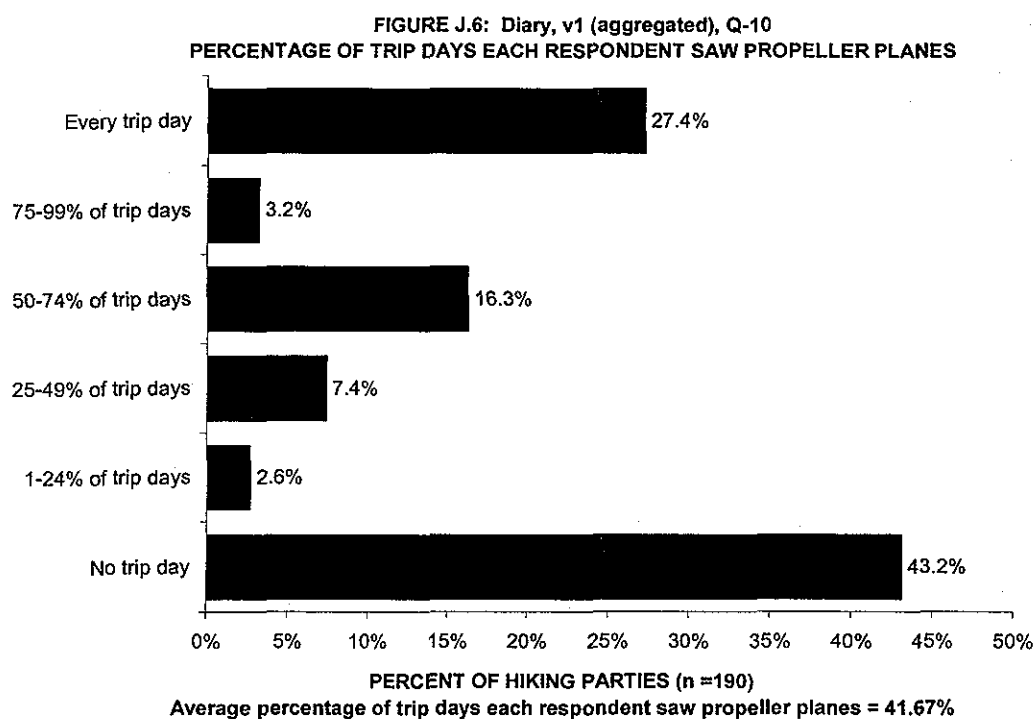
Encounters with Specific Kinds of Aircraft

Diary, Version 1

10. What kind(s) of aircraft flew over? (Circle each type you identified and write the number of each type seen in the blank following)

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Propeller plane _____ | 3. Jet _____ |
| 2. Helicopter _____ | 4. Other _____ |

Propeller Planes



Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

FIGURE J.7: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PROPELLER PLANES SEEN PER TRIP DAY

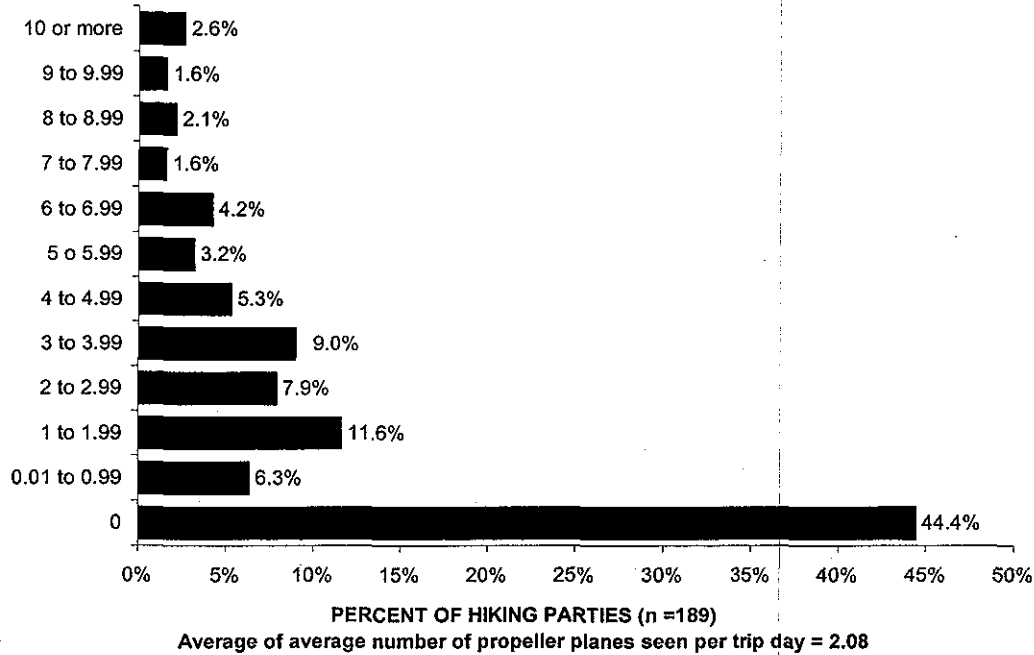
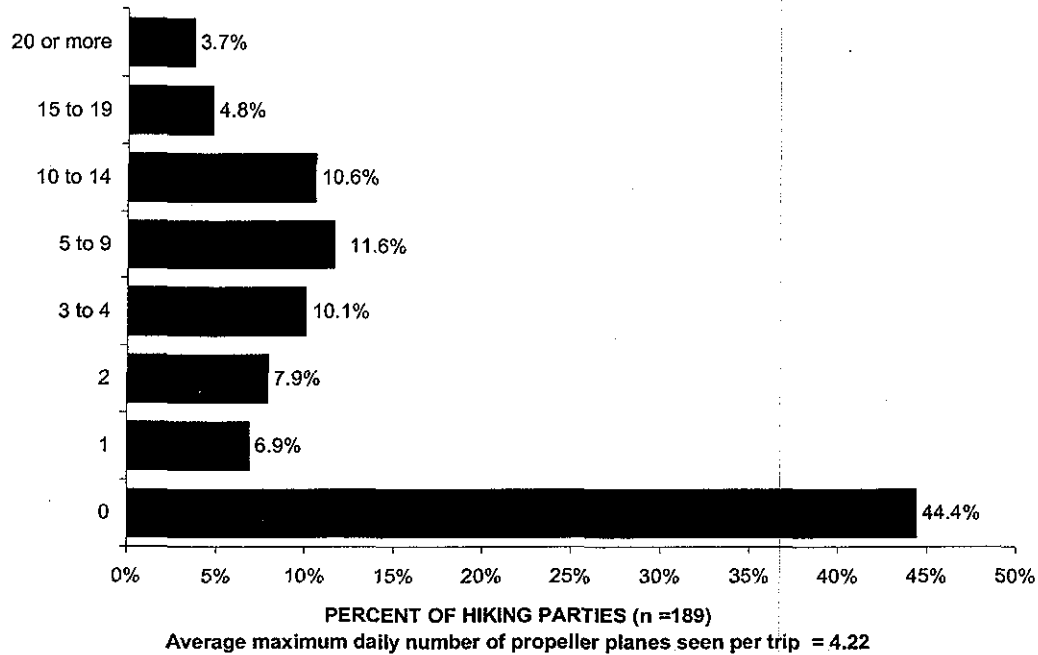


FIGURE J.8: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
MAXIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF PROPELLER PLANES SEEN PER TRIP



Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

FIGURE J.9: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
MINIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF PROPELLER PLANES SEEN PER TRIP

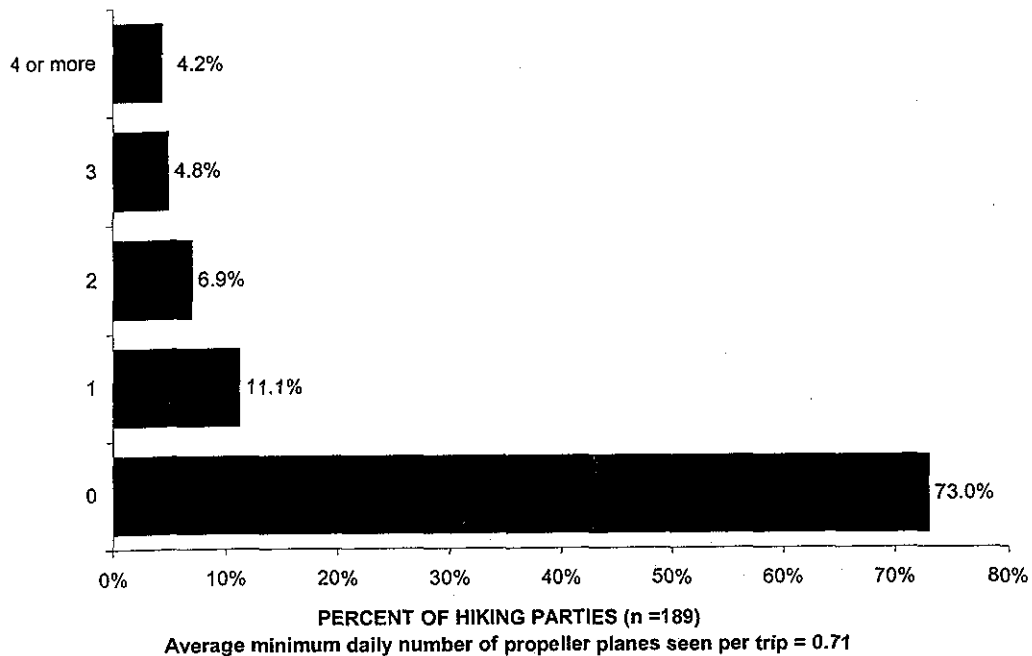
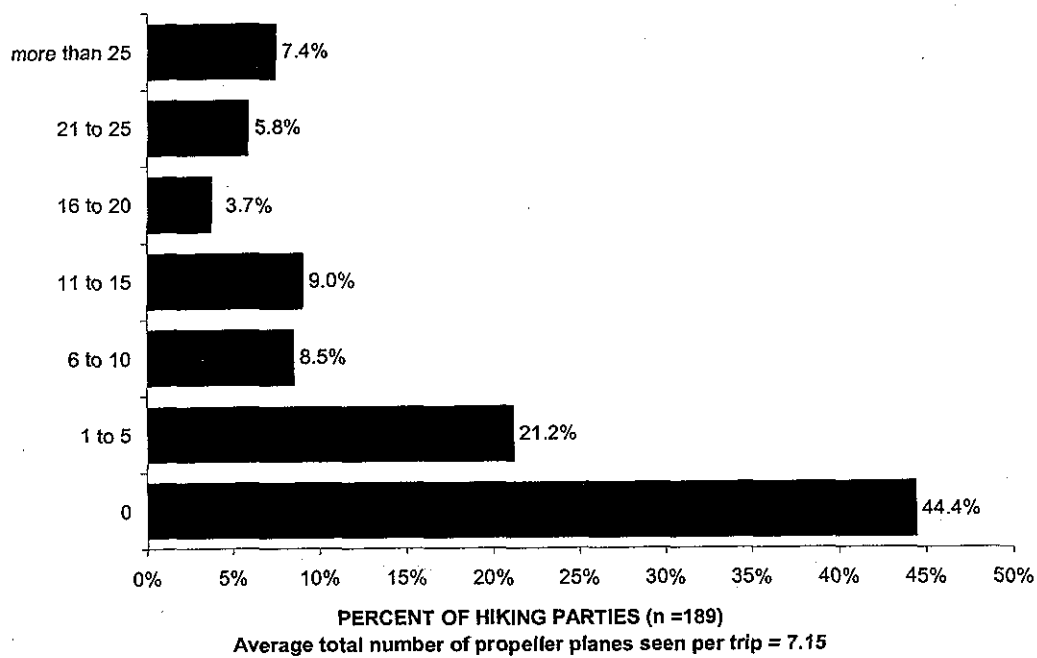
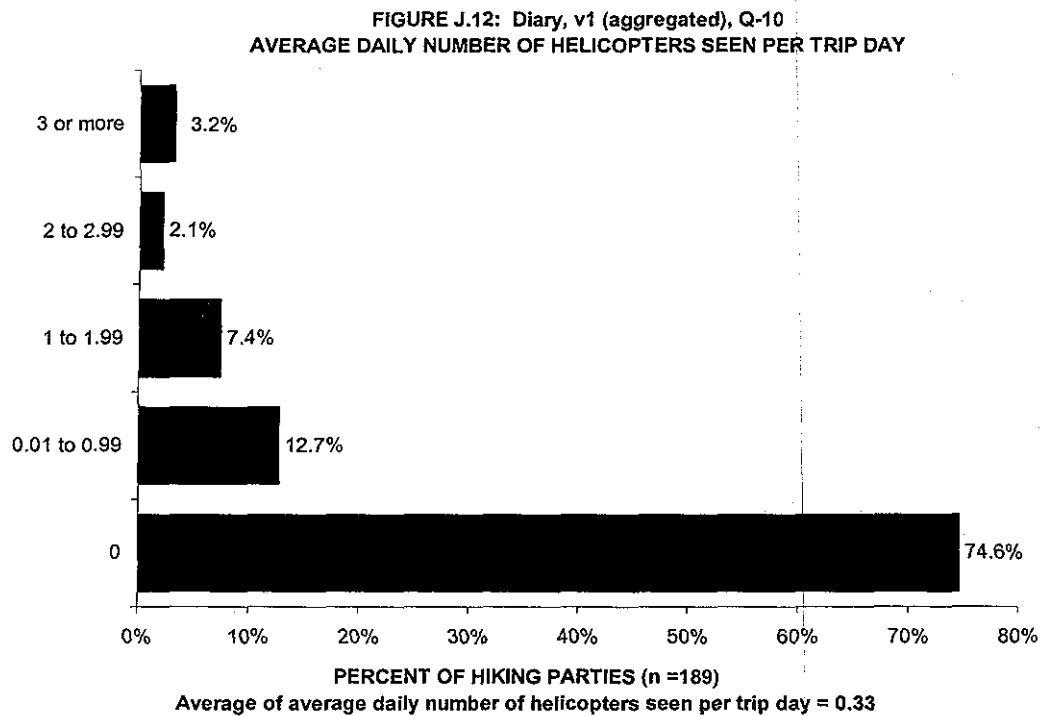
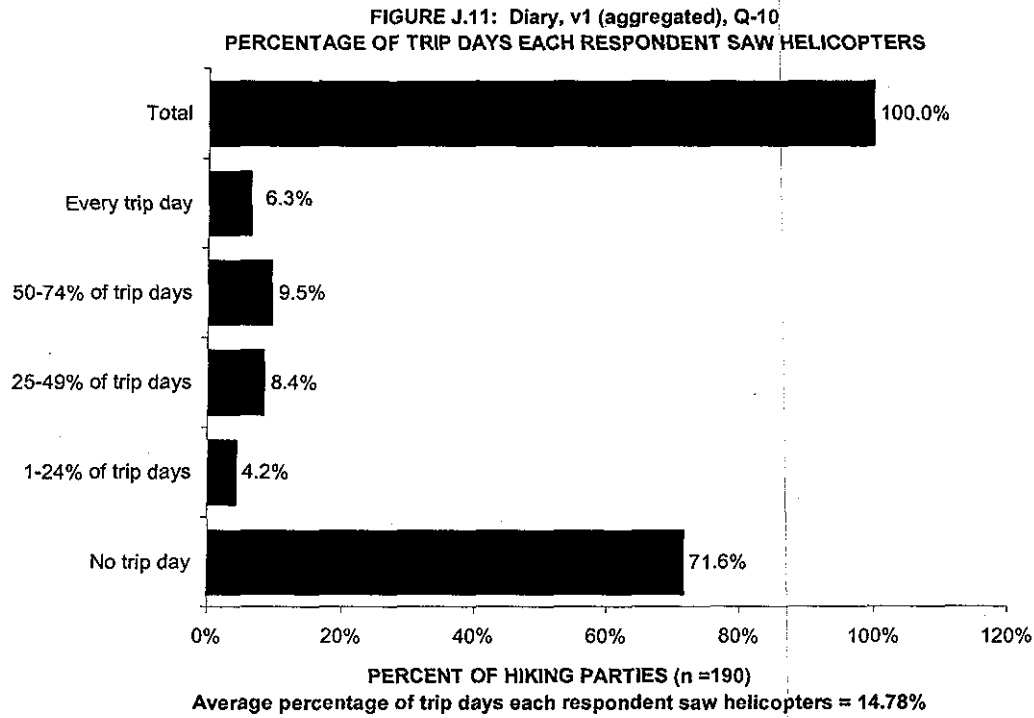


FIGURE J.10: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPELLER PLANES SEEN PER TRIP



Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

Helicopters



Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

FIGURE J.13: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
MAXIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS SEEN PER TRIP

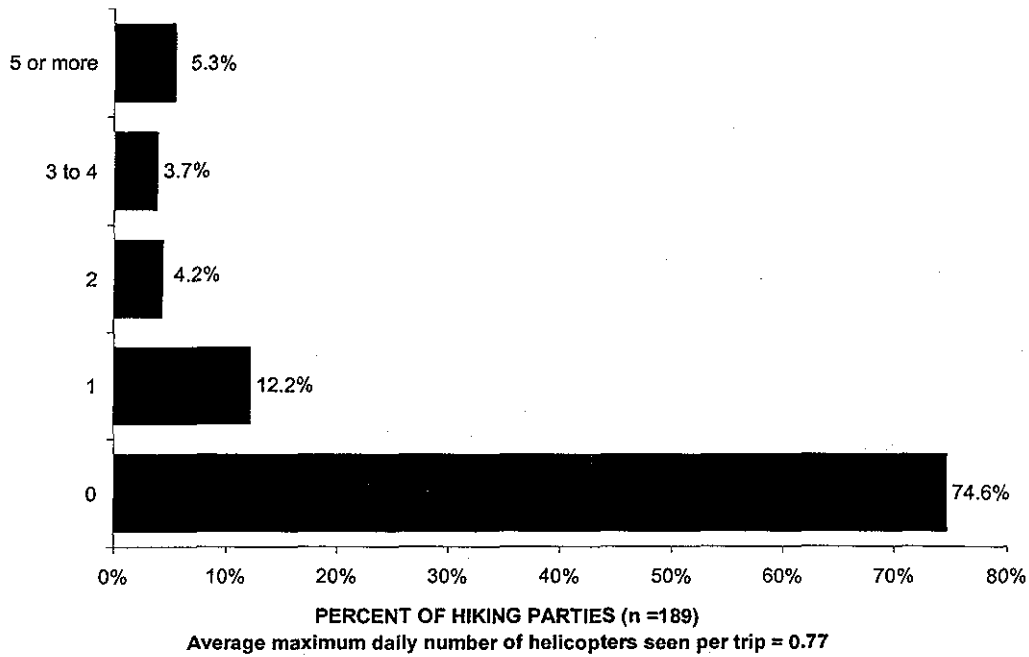
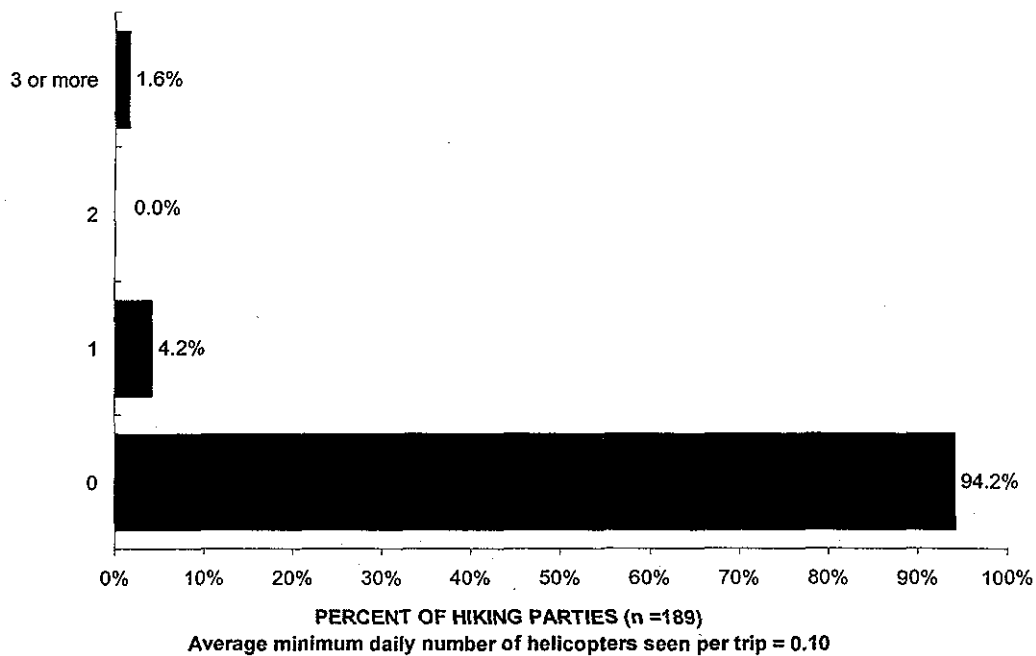
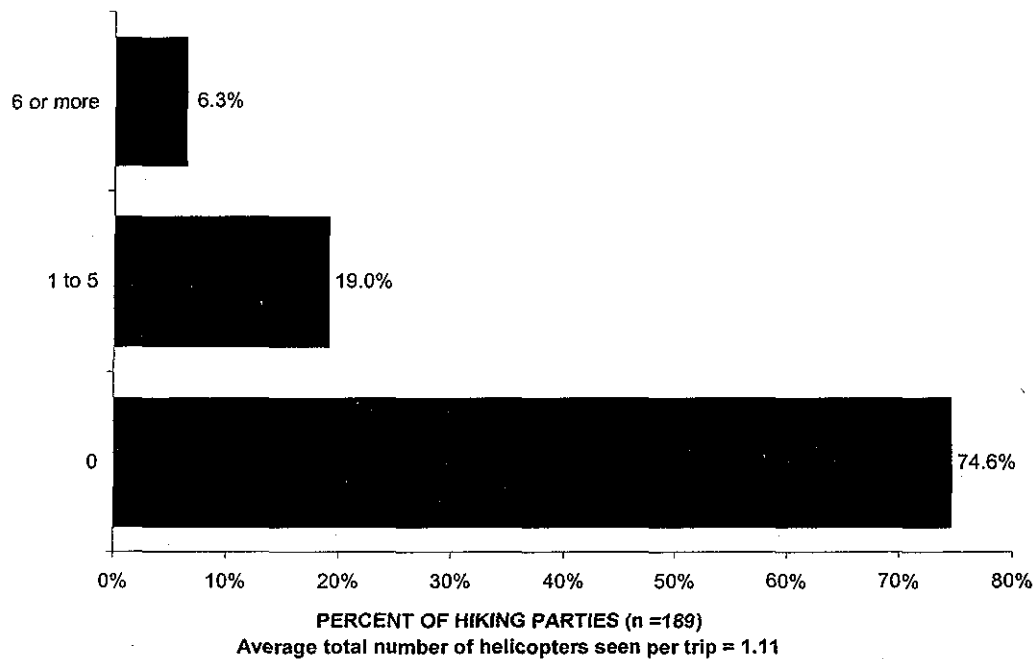


FIGURE J.14: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
MINIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS SEEN PER TRIP



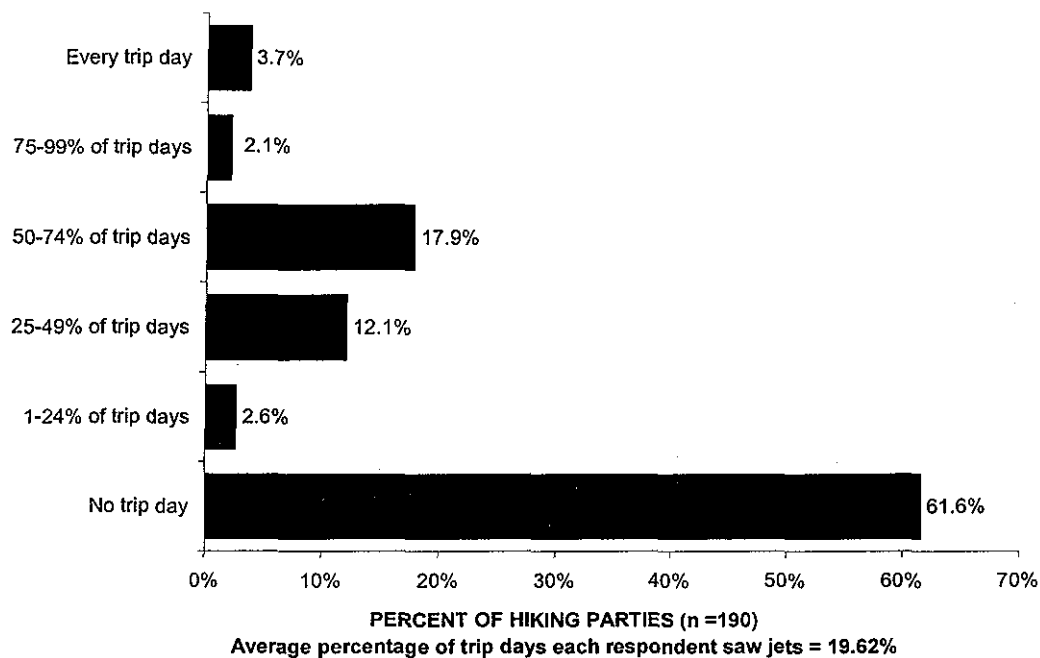
Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

FIGURE J15: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
TOTAL NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS SEEN PER TRIP



Jets

FIGURE J.16: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
PERCENTAGE OF TRIP DAYS EACH RESPONDENT SAW JETS



Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

FIGURE J.17: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
AVERAGE NUMBER OF JETS SEEN PER TRIP DAY

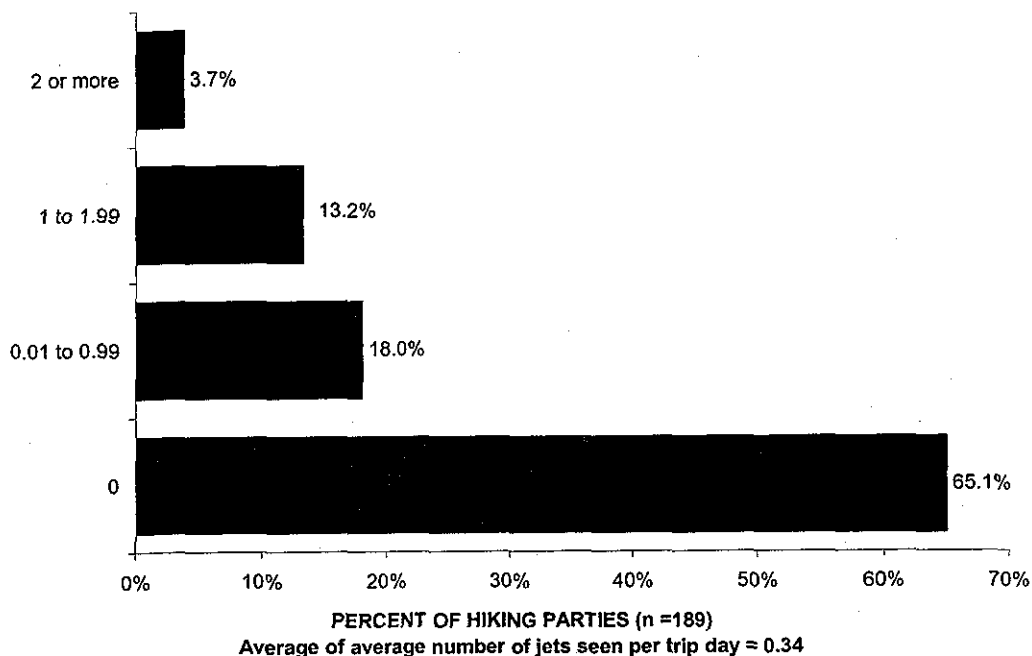
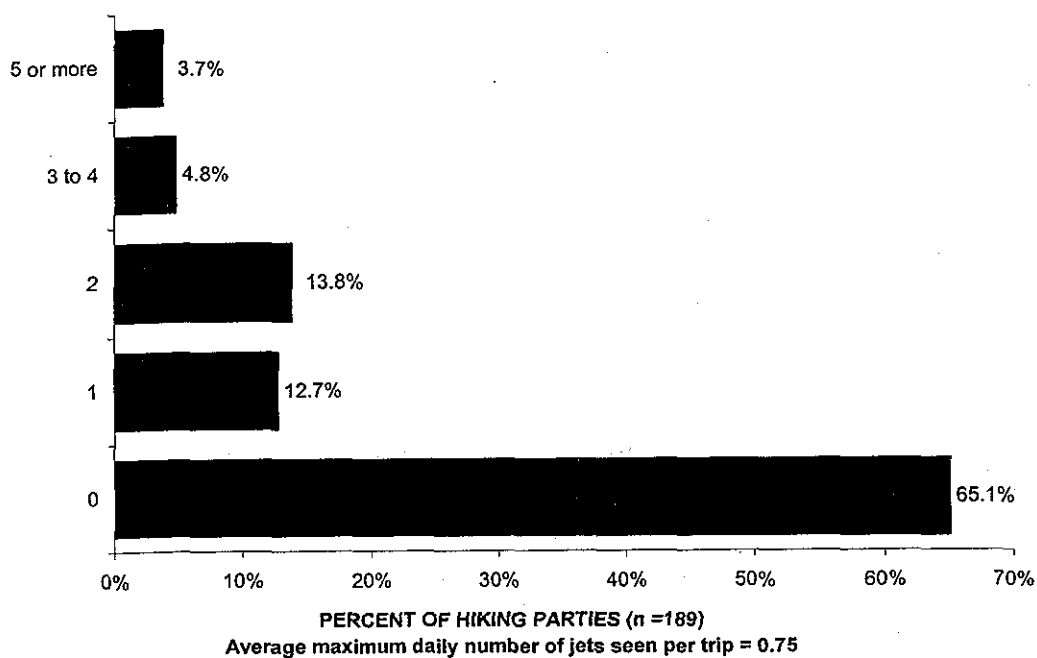


FIGURE J.18: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
MAXIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF JETS SEEN PER TRIP



Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

FIGURE J.19: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
MINIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF JETS SEEN PER TRIP

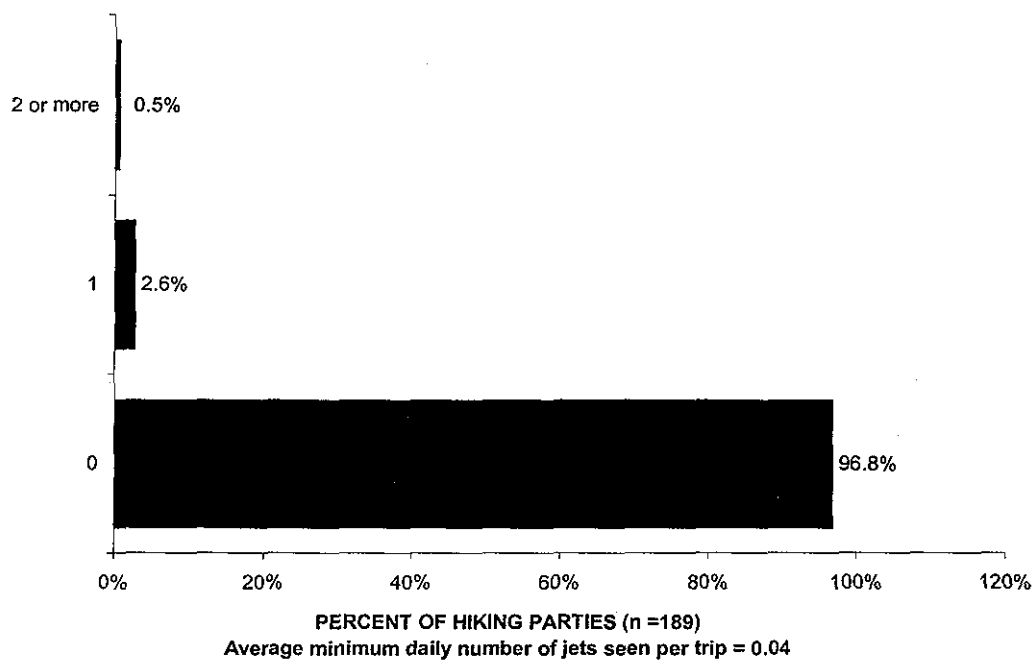
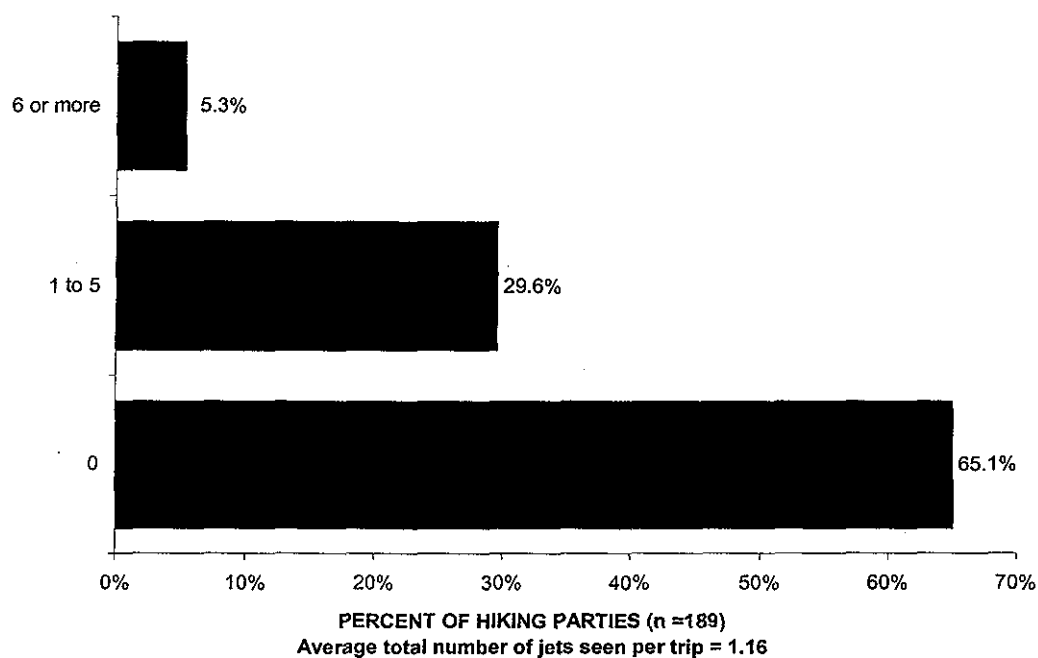


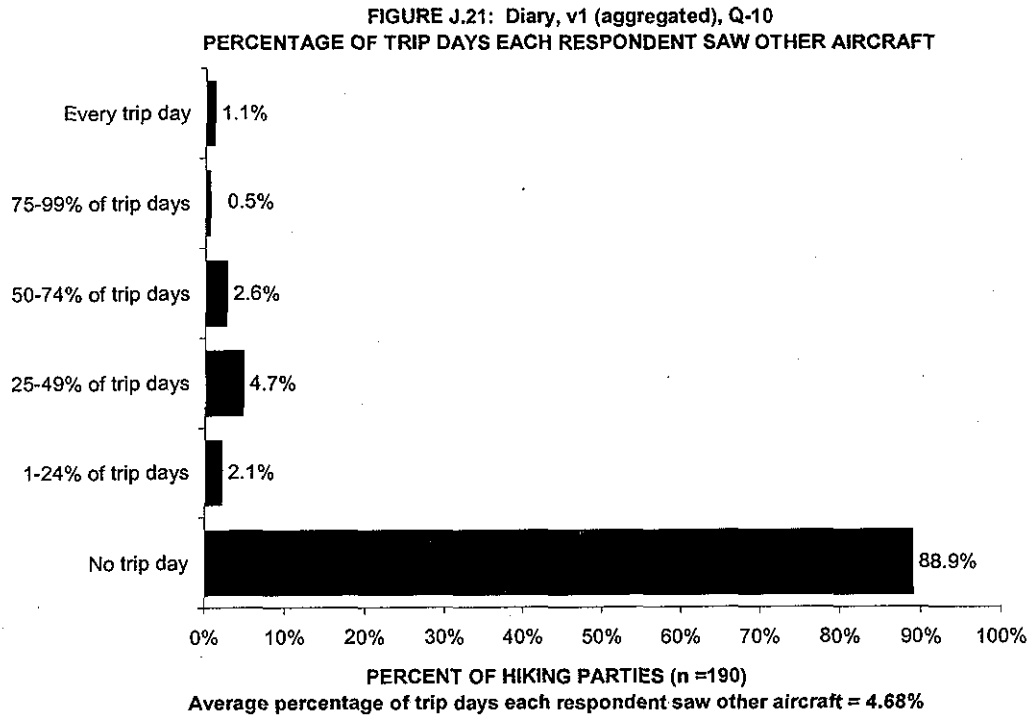
FIGURE J.20: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
TOTAL NUMBER OF JETS SEEN PER TRIP



Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

Other Aircraft

The "Other Aircraft" category was most commonly used for aircraft that were not specifically classified as prop planes, helicopters, or jets.



Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

FIGURE J.22: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
AVERAGE NUMBER OTHER AIRCRAFT SEEN PER TRIP DAY

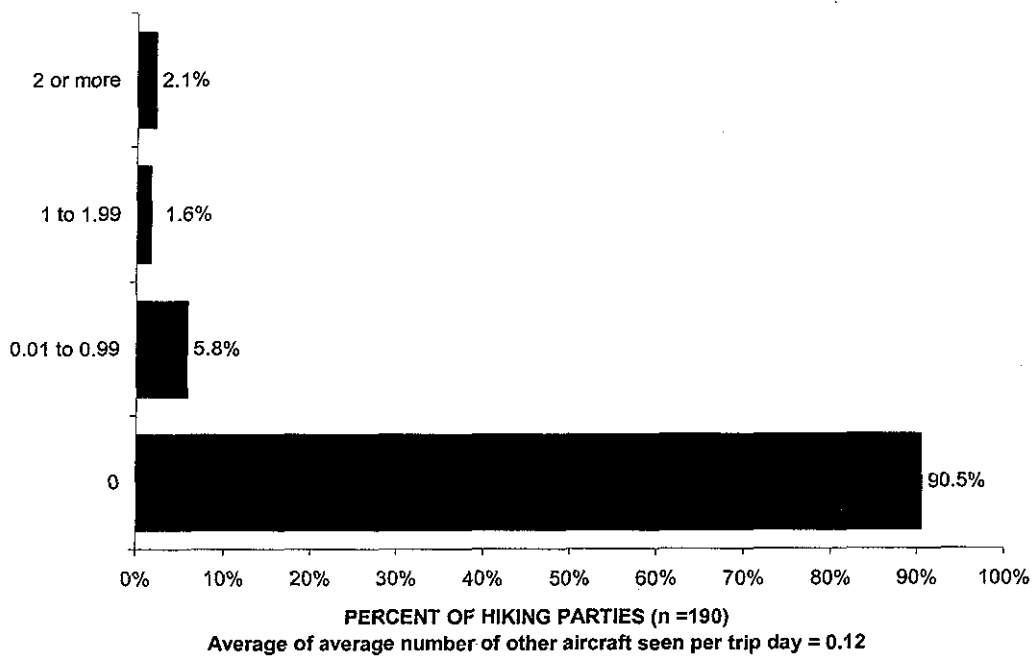
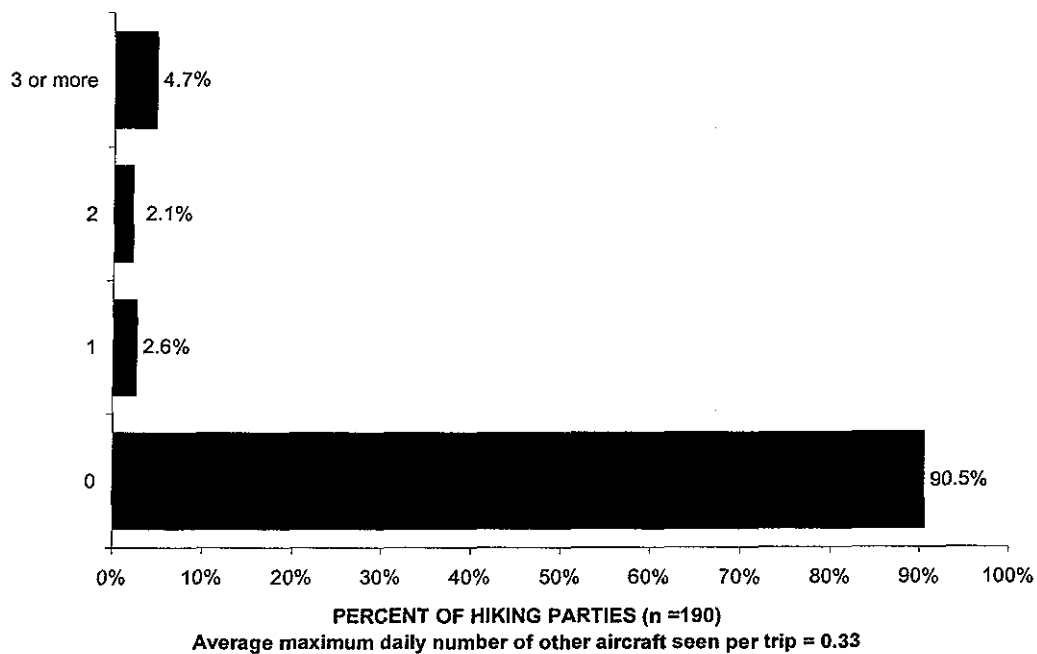


FIGURE J.23: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
MAXIMUM DAILY NUMBER OTHER AIRCRAFT SEEN PER TRIP



Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

FIGURE J.24: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
MINIMUM DAILY NUMBER OTHER AIRCRAFT SEEN PER TRIP

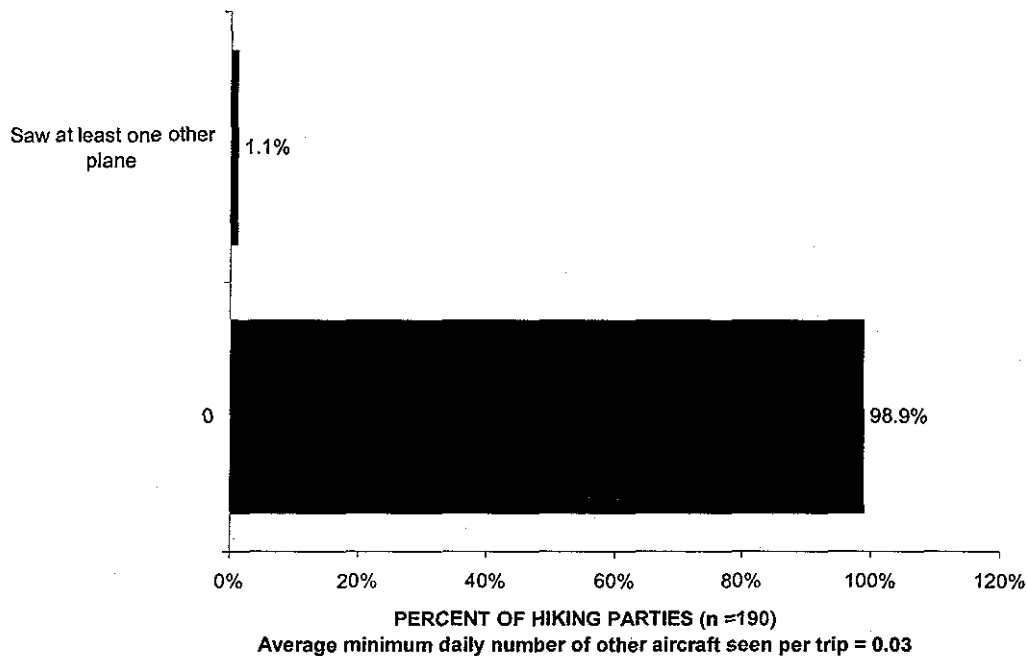
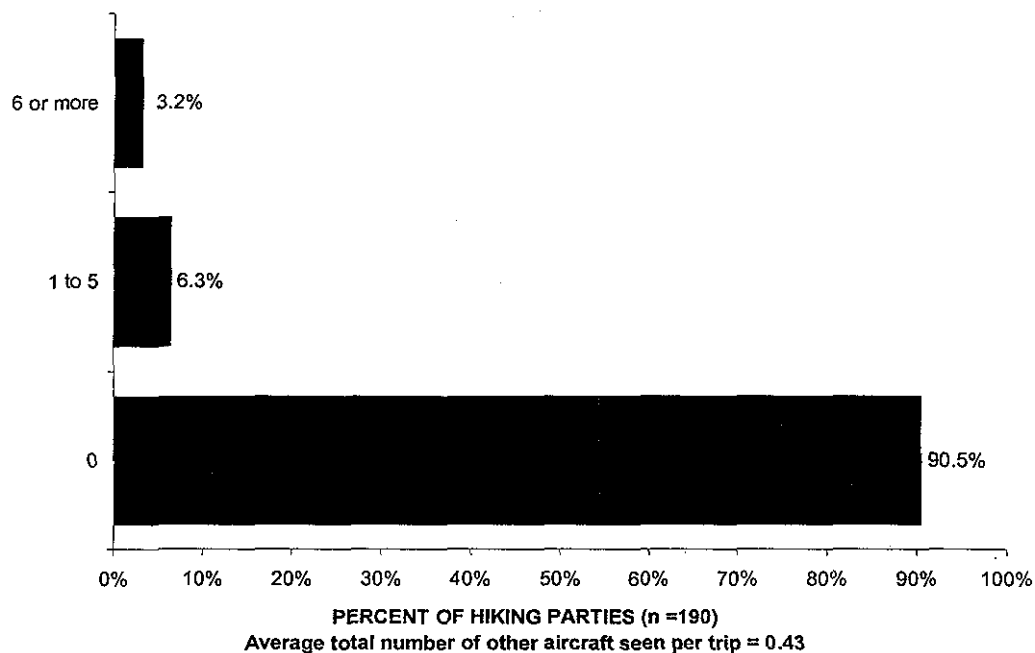


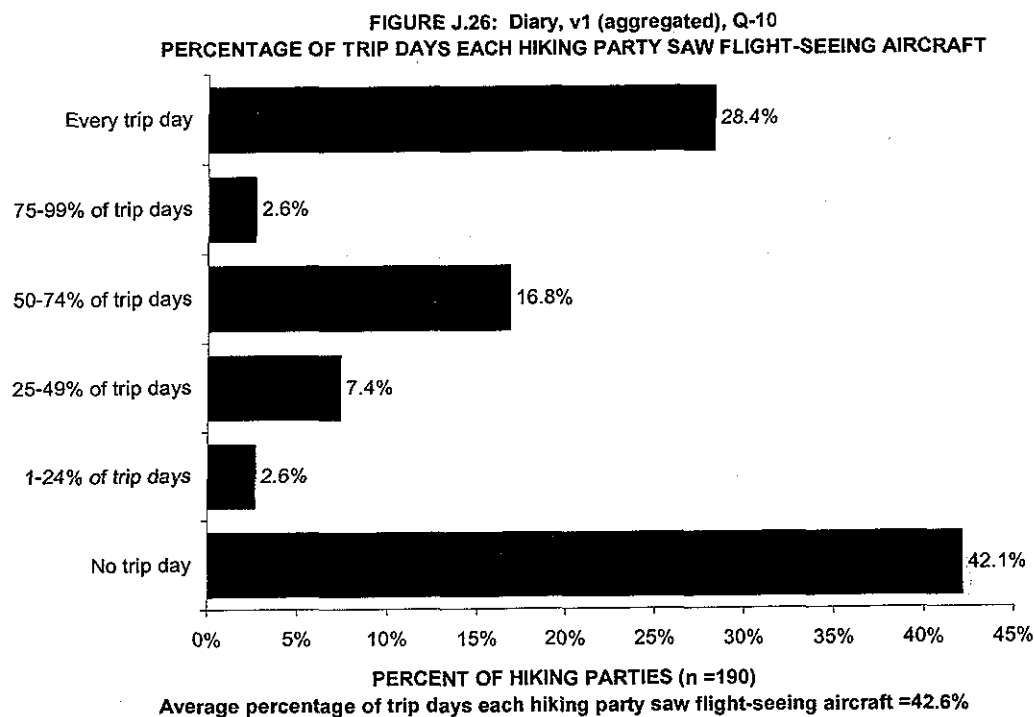
FIGURE J.25: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
TOTAL NUMBER OTHER AIRCRAFT SEEN PER TRIP



Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

Flight-seeing Aircraft

Both propeller planes and helicopters are used for commercial flight-seeing trips in DENA. In order to represent backpackers' experience with this general class of aircraft, data for propeller planes and helicopters were combined and presented in the charts below.



Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

FIGURE J.27: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
AVERAGE NUMBER OF FLIGHT-SEEING AIRCRAFT SEEN PER TRIP DAY

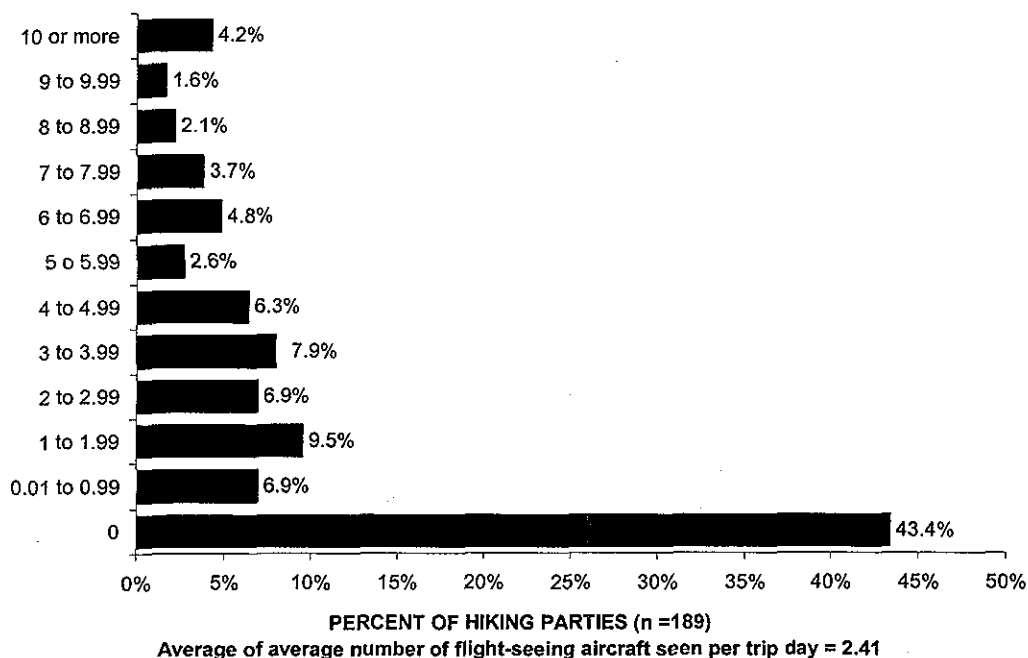
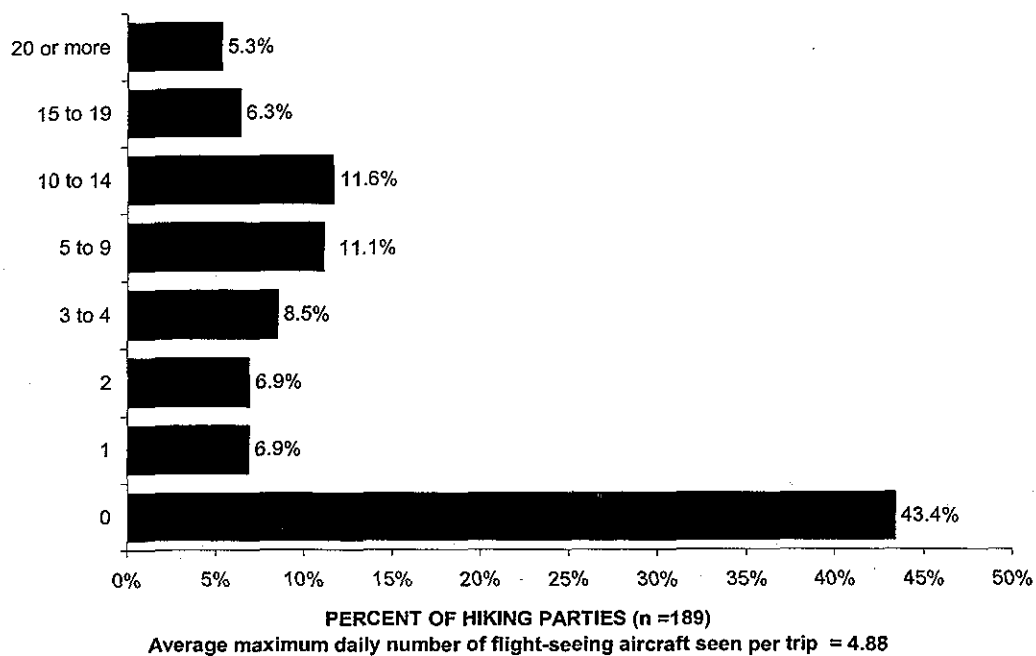


FIGURE J.28: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
MAXIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF FLIGHT-SEEING AIRCRAFT SEEN PER TRIP



Appendix J: Encounters with Various Types of Aircraft

FIGURE J.29: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
MINIMUM DAILY NUMBER OF FLIGHT-SEEING AIRCRAFT SEEN PER TRIP

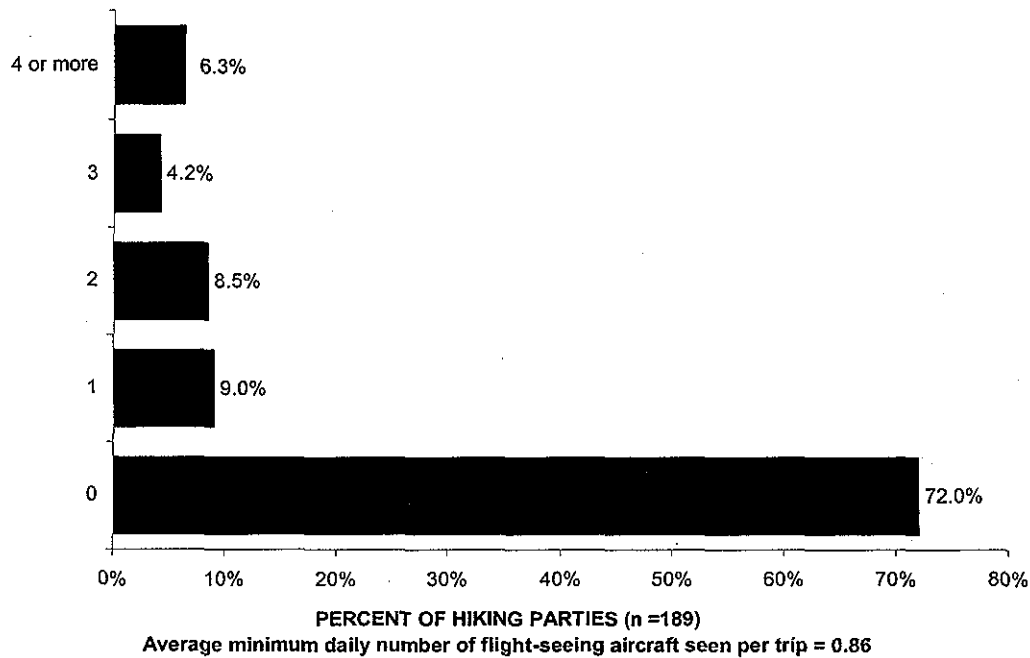
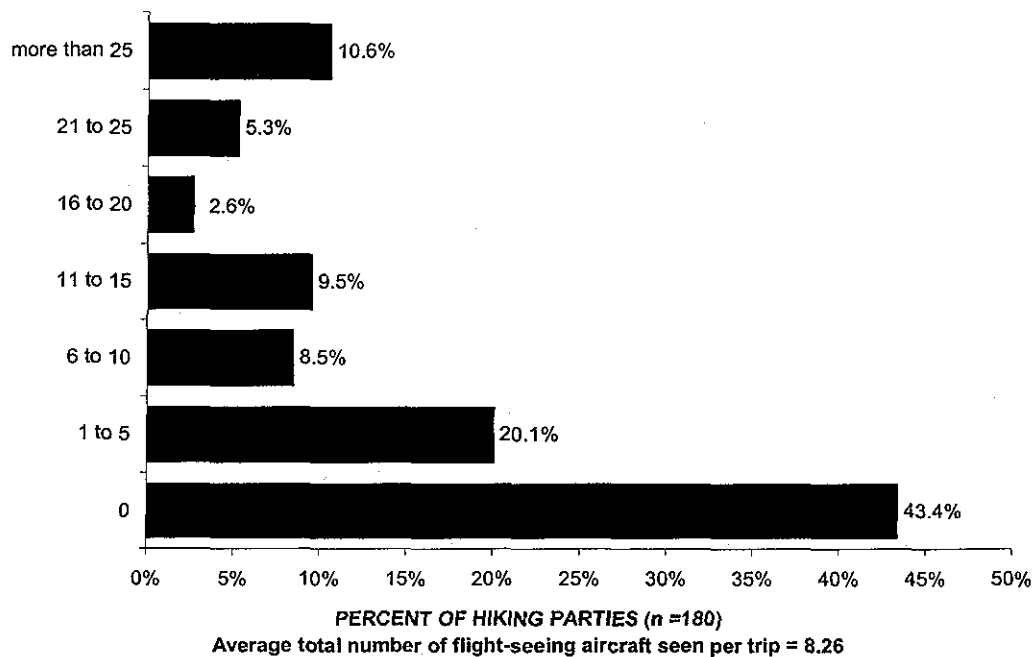


FIGURE J.30: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-10
TOTAL NUMBER OF FLIGHT-SEEING AIRCRAFT SEEN PER TRIP



Appendix K: Characteristics of Aircraft Encounters

Questions filled out daily in Version 1 of the trip diary asked backpackers to report the total time that aircraft could be seen/heard, and requested a loudness rating for the loudest aircraft heard (the questions are reproduced later in this appendix). Because data were collected on a daily basis and then aggregated to represent each backpacking party's trip, five summary figures represent the data from the duration question and four summary figures represent the loudness question.

Duration:

- The *Average Time per Trip Day* represents the total time that aircraft were reported as present during a trip divided by the number of trip days. Because partial hiking days could be recorded on the first and/or last day of the diary, the presented averages are low estimates of the time that aircraft are heard/seen per full hiking day.
- The *Maximum Daily Time per Trip* represents the number of minutes that aircraft were reported as present on the day when aircraft were heard/seen for the longest time. For example, if a party on a three-day hiking trip reported hearing/seeing aircraft for 3, 1, and 2 minutes, the Maximum Daily Time would be 3 minutes.
- The *Minimum Daily Time per Trip* is calculated in the same manner as the Maximum Daily Time, except that it represents the trip day when aircraft were heard/seen for the shortest time (i.e., in the example, the Minimum Daily Time would be 1).
- The *Standard Deviation per Trip Day* represents the variability in the daily time aircraft were reported as present across the days of each trip. The standard deviation is the conventional way of describing how much a group of scores (in this case, daily time of aircraft encounters reported across multiple trip days) vary around the mean of that group (in this case, the Average Time per Trip Day).
- The *Total Time per Trip* is simply the total time that aircraft were reported as present during a trip.

Appendix K: Characteristics of Aircraft Encounters

Loudness:

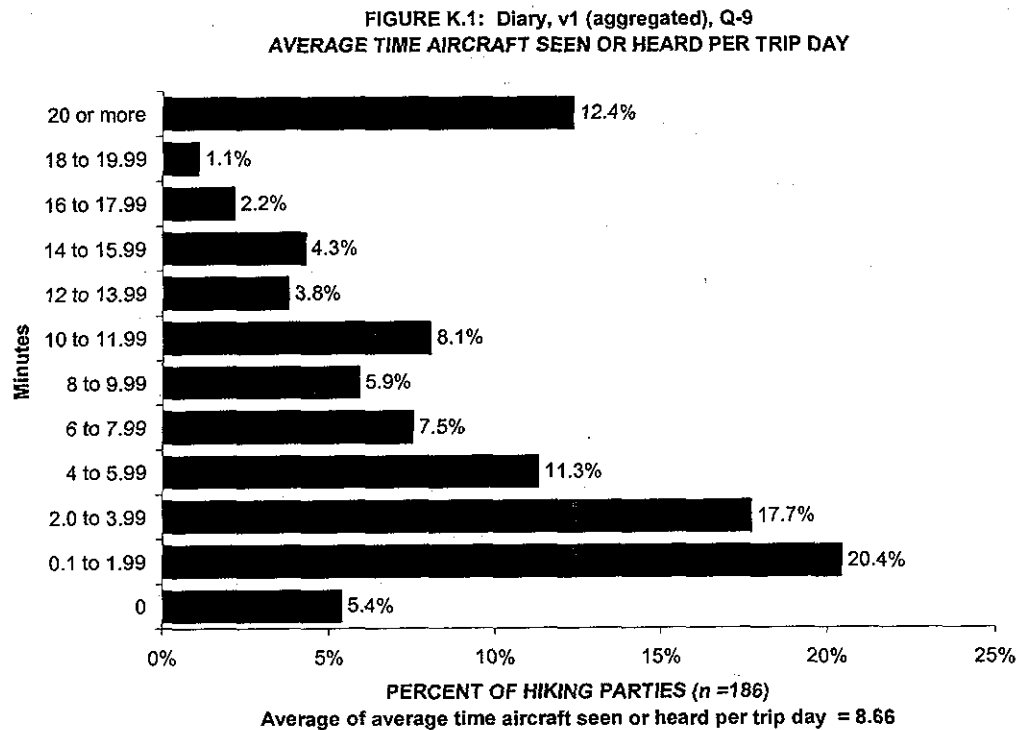
- The *Average Loudest Aircraft per Trip Day* represents the sum of the loudness ratings of the loudest aircraft reported on each trip day divided by the number of trip days.
- The *Maximum Loudest Aircraft per Trip* represents the loudness rating of the loudest aircraft reported during a trip.
- The *Minimum Loudest Aircraft per Trip* represents the rating of the loudest aircraft encountered on the trip day when the loudness rating was lowest. For example, if a party on a three-day hiking trip reported maximum daily loudness ratings of 3, 1, and 3, the Minimum Loudest Aircraft would be 1.
- The *Standard Deviation of Loudest Aircraft per Trip Day* represents the variability in the daily time aircraft were reported as present across the days of each trip. The standard deviation is the conventional way of describing how much a group of scores (in this case, daily time of aircraft encounters reported across multiple trip days) vary around the mean of that group (in this case, the Average Loudest Aircraft per Trip Day).

Appendix K: Characteristics of Aircraft Encounters

Duration of Aircraft Encounters

Diary, Version 1

9. How long was the total time that you could hear or see aircraft? (In minutes.)



Appendix K: Characteristics of Aircraft Encounters

FIGURE K.2: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-9
MAXIMUM DAILY TIME AIRCRAFT SEEN OR HEARD PER TRIP

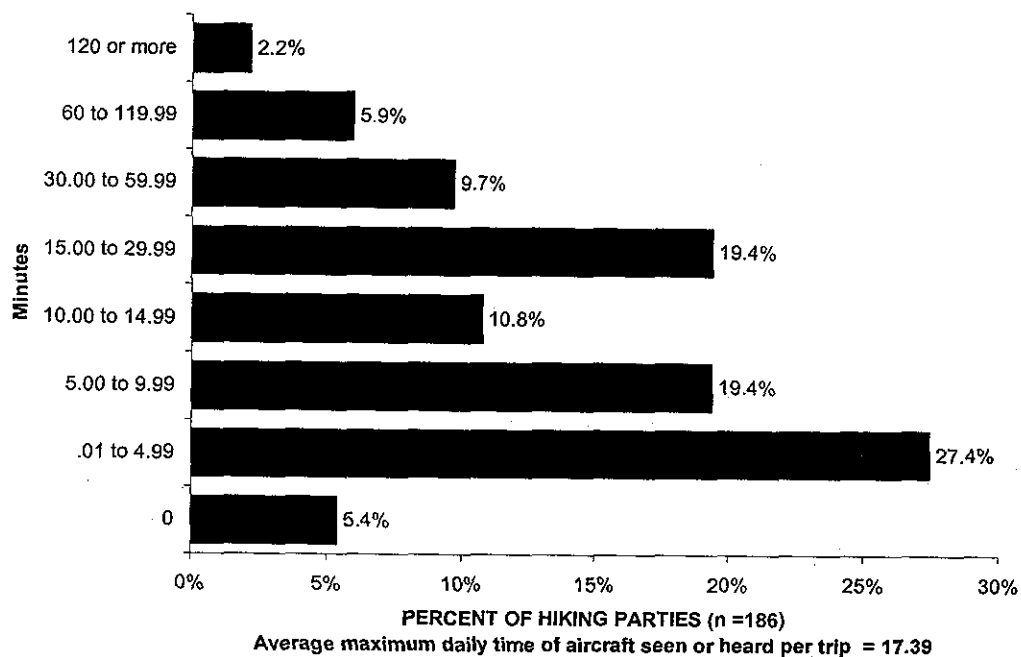
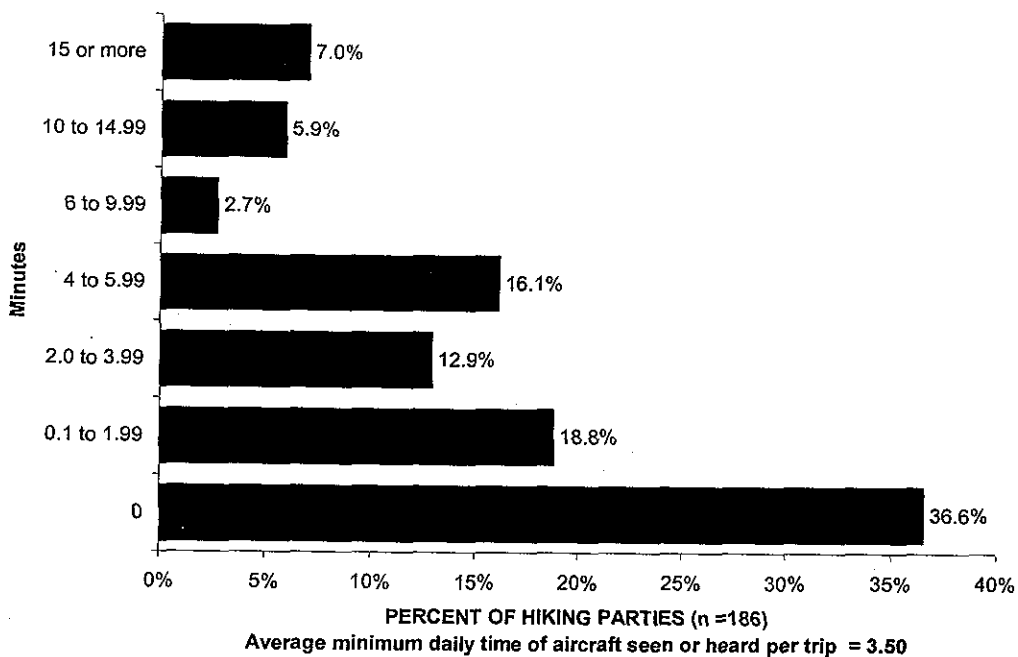


FIGURE K.3: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-9
MINIMUM DAILY TIME AIRCRAFT SEEN OR HEARD PER TRIP



Appendix K: Characteristics of Aircraft Encounters

FIGURE K.4: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-9
STANDARD DEVIATION OF TIME AIRCRAFT SEEN OR HEARD PER TRIP DAY

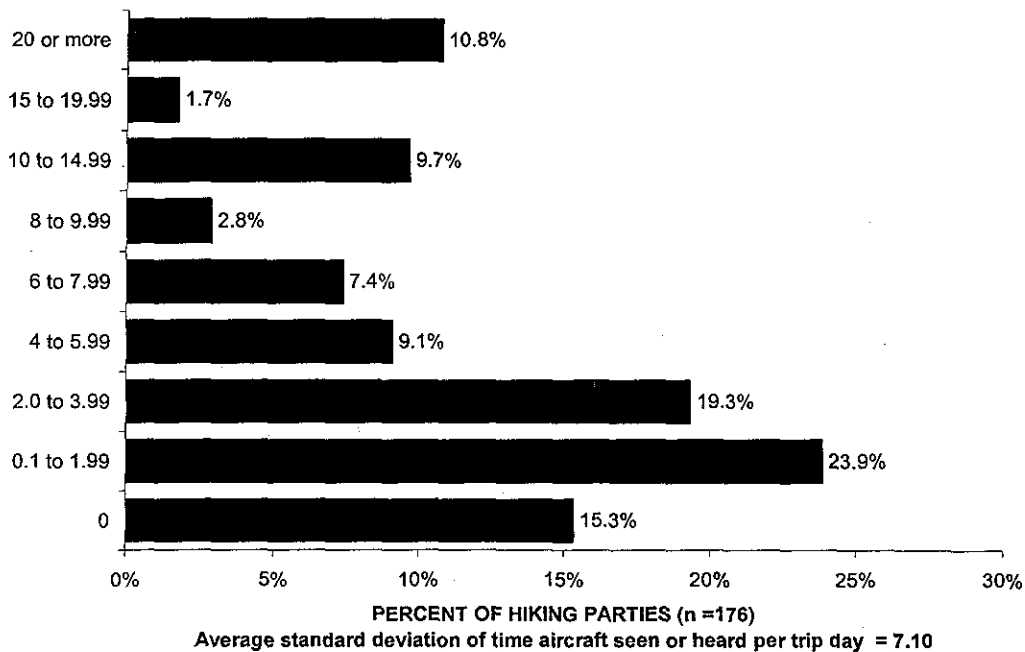
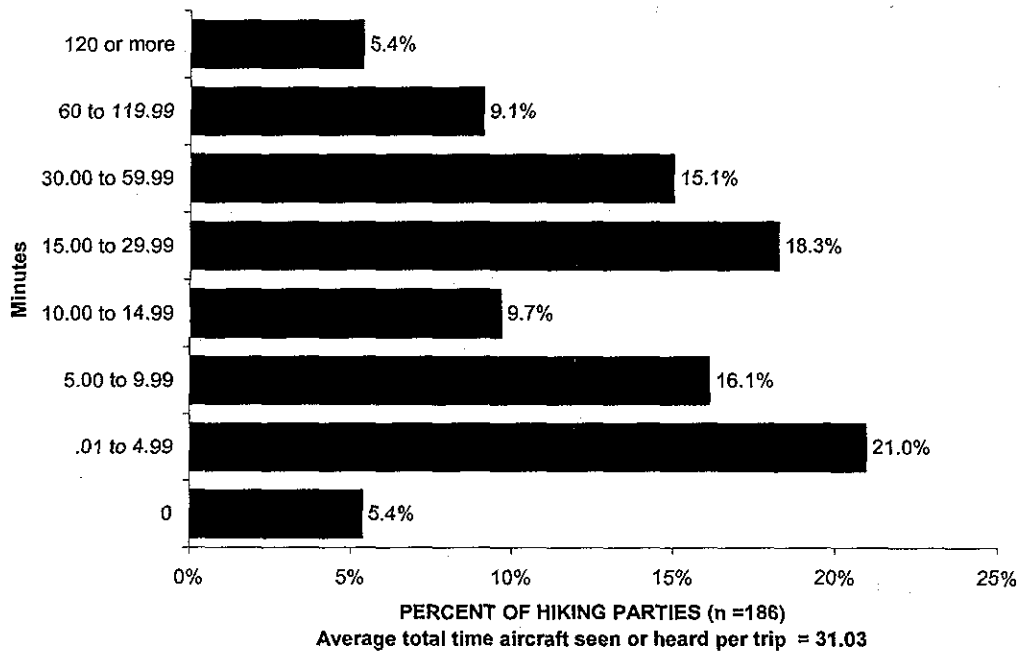


FIGURE K.5: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-9
TOTAL TIME AIRCRAFT SEEN OR HEARD PER TRIP



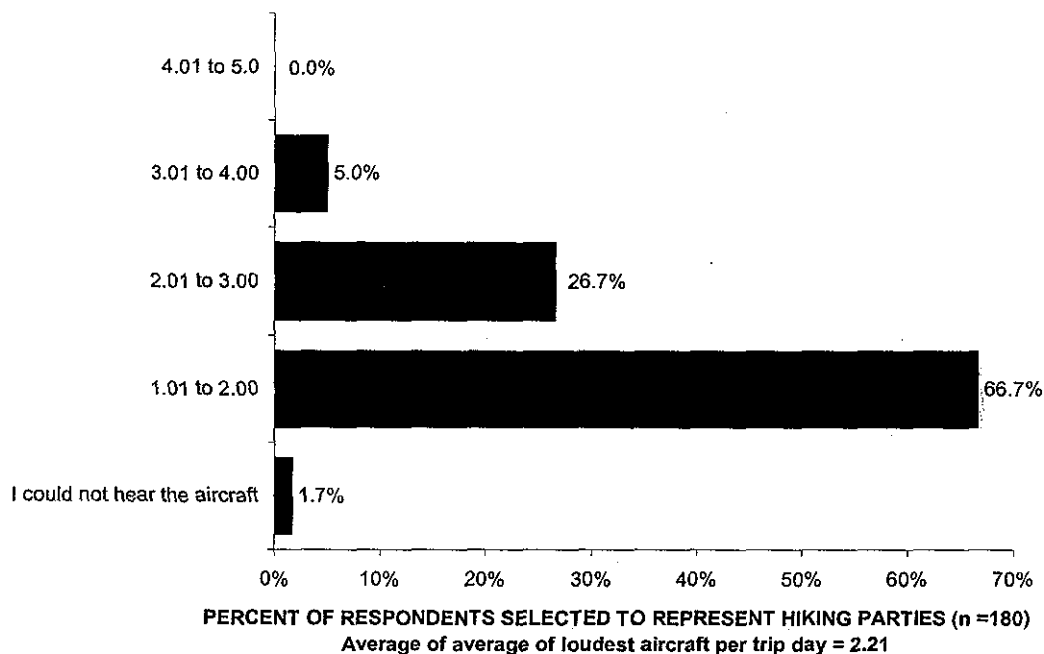
Loudness of Aircraft Encounters

Diary, Version 1

11. Which of the following best describes how loud the sound of the aircraft was at its loudest point? (*List number that describes the sound*)

1. I couldn't hear the aircraft.
2. Background sound where you could still talk in a normal voice
3. Conspicuous sound where you would have to speak loudly to be heard
4. Dominant sound where you would have to shout to be heard
5. Overwhelming sound where you couldn't even hear shouting

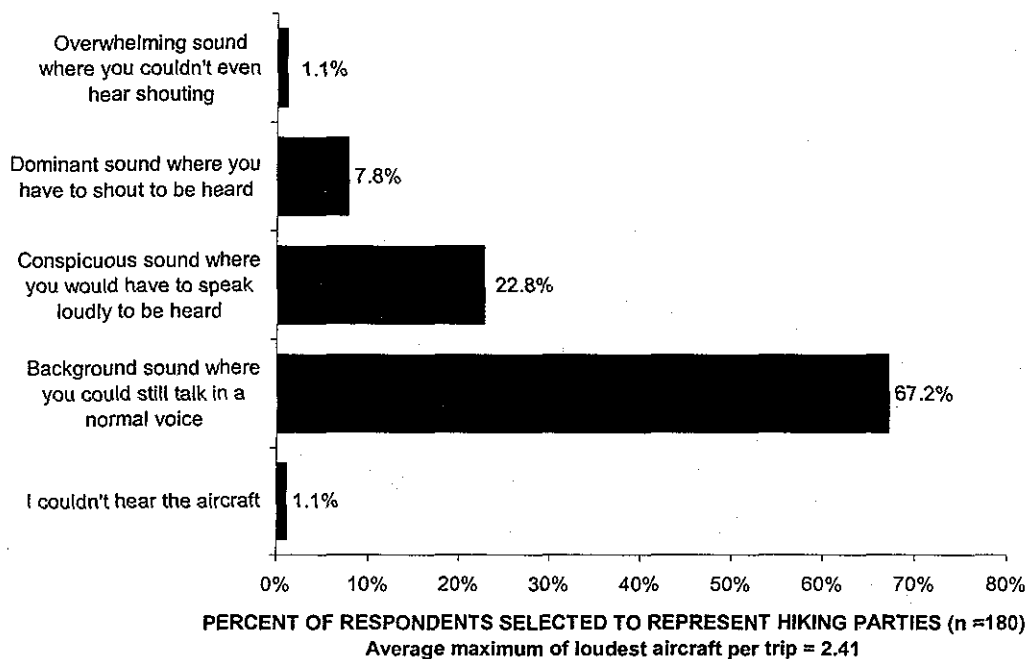
FIGURE K.6: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-11
AVERAGE OF LOUDEST AIRCRAFT PER TRIP DAY



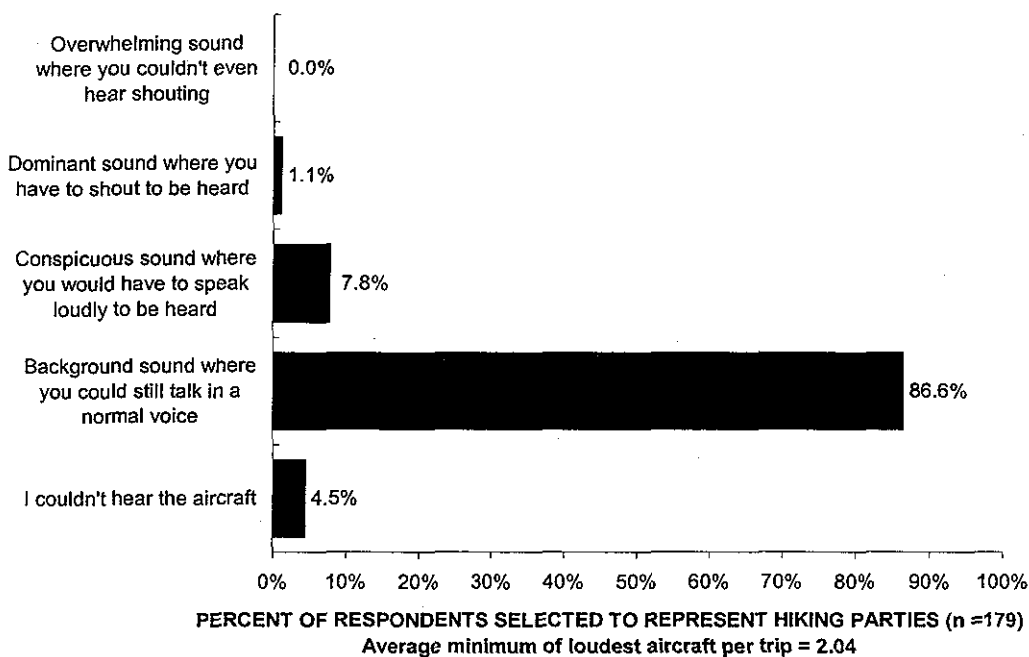
*Taking the average results in values that fall between the response options

Appendix K: Characteristics of Aircraft Encounters

**FIGURE K.7: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-11
MAXIMUM OF LOUDEST AIRCRAFT PER TRIP**

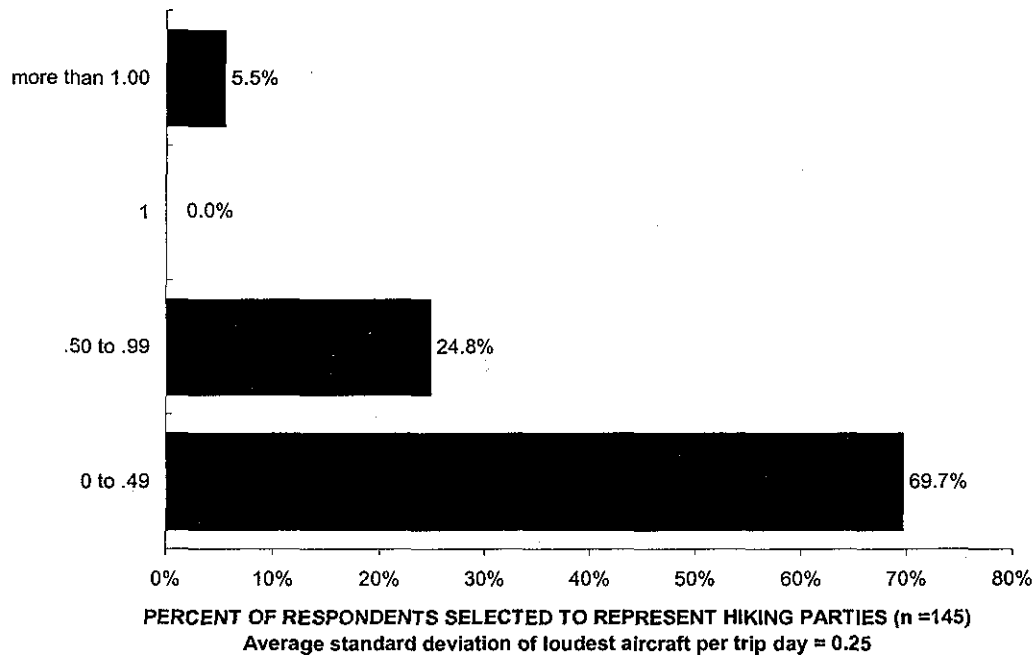


**FIGURE K.8: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-11
MINIMUM OF LOUDEST AIRCRAFT PER TRIP**



Appendix K: Characteristics of Aircraft Encounters

FIGURE K.9: Diary, v1 (aggregated), Q-11
STANDARD DEVIATION OF LOUDEST AIRCRAFT PER TRIP DAY



Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

The last question of the mail survey provided respondents with an opportunity to comment on any positive or negative aspect of their trip to DENA or NPS management of the area. All of these general comments were coded to reflect the main themes of the comments and it is not uncommon for a comment to have multiple codes. If a comment had multiple codes, the first code represents either the main theme (if one stood out) or the first theme (if no main theme was apparent). Below we present these general comments sorted by the first code (e.g., main theme).

In addition to general comments, a fair number of respondents wrote comments by specific questions. These comments were not coded, but they are presented after the general comments. It is recommended that readers review the mail questionnaire included in Appendix E.

General Comments

Code Legend

a	Advanced reservations, permit process, & zone comments
b	Bear comments
c	Cache or containers
d	Park development
e	Environment
f	Fly overs
g	Group size
h	Hiker concerns
i	Information
m	Management
r	Rangers & staff
s	Survey
t	Transportation
u	User fees
v	Visit again
w	Weather
x	Great experience

- a It should be possible to make a CG or backcountry reservation ahead. The way it went now people lose too many days while waiting for a permit. It's getting too expensive staying in the area. Things are getting too touristy.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- a It was difficult to obtain overnight permits for the areas we wanted to go to. I would support advance reservations of areas
- a I like that you issue limited permits per day. Not doing so would be a mistake. Not only would it increase use (and possible abuse) of the land, it would detract from every users overall experience. I appreciate how well you educate users before they are allowed to use the backcountry. (you could use a new video however!) Thanks.
- a We support the current procedure to obtain a permit. The advantage of the procedure is to have to plan in detail your backcountry hike or place and be aware what situations you encounter within the park. (wildlife, day hiking distance, traversing rivers.)
- a Inability to get certain permits strongly interfered with my exploration of the Denali backcountry, and restricted me from meeting goals I've set for my trip. I am pissed.
- a Some things about the park are a little frustrating. Things like not being able to get a certain spot until the day before, but I think that it is all extremely necessary.
- a Overall, very pleased with the backcountry permit system. Was glad to see that only a certain number of people were allowed into units. Good shuttle/ camper bus system. Would have liked a fire one or two chilly nights. Perhaps one could purchase a fire permit and it could be recorded under purchaser's name and signature to certain do's and don'ts? Would hate to see the backcountry overcrowded!! Perfect as is- didn't see anyone....
- a There were no backcountry partners available. I was relieved to find little evidence of human use in our backcountry area beyond a mile from the road. Despite pressures to make "backcountry Denali" more accessible to more people. I cannot now, nor ever, support more volume than present policy permits! My wonderful experience at Denali will propel me into activism to prohibit increased usage levels which would/could turn into a Yellowstone or Grand Canyon for a dollar.
- a It was very difficult to plan a trip Denali without knowing if a permit could be obtained especially since lodging/campground reservation are tough. I had to spend significant money to line up a "back up" plan for campgrounds and a bus ticket. However I didn't want to see anyone else once we got "out there" so I can't claim that the process should be changed.
- a This was a very positive experience. The slight downfall is not being able to get into desired b/c areas if you're only there a few days. But the guides were helpful. We were very happy with our experience. I think a reservation system would encourage people to reserve desired spots and then they might change their travel plans, leaving others to miss out. That's what we saw at Wonder Lake.
- a It was overwhelming trying to figure out our trip, but cannot think of suggestions on how to streamline the process. We spent 2 days in one zone then scheduled two more days in two different zones. We wished we could day hike into other zones, but didn't want to get caught by ranger....
- a It was difficult to get a backcountry permit. Maybe in the more popular areas i.e. around Mt. McKinley and the lake more people should be allowed access but keep some more remote areas with lower numbers of people who don't want to see other hikers. Buses should be cheaper for getting to the other end of the park. If you aren't working the prices are very high.
- a Referring to question 26, I would support an issuing policy that incorporated all 4 systems. 50% first come/first serve and the other 50% divided between the other three somehow.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- a We felt the wording of the method of obtaining wilderness permits was a bit confusing. It says you can only obtain permits 24 hours in advance of going into the backcountry. That gave us the impression that we had to be at the visitor center the day before we actually go out backpacking. The reality though was that we could reserve by phone to camp at Wonder Lake for a week and then come and get permits for hiking out in the backcountry from Wonder Lake. We didn't actually have to be in the V.C. 24 hours prior to going backpacking but that was the impression we were given.
- ab Have done backpacking in lower 48. This was definitely a different experience. I like the backcountry rules and permits. Found the park video about grizzly bear caution very scary. Was very nervous about running into bears and crossing the braided rivers. Luckily everything went well. Saw few if any people. Compared to other backcountry trips I felt much more in "wild nature". Due to lack of people, trails, bridges, and some sightings of bear and caribou. It is one of my most memorable trips and a place that is on the top of my list to revisit.
- ad Backcountry in this area was something I had never experienced before and made a very enjoyable and memorable trip. My only complaint about the trip was that there was no way you could "know" what to expect in the different zones. But, that is also one of the aspects that made this trip great. Keep the areas a "preserve" so when I come back, I can enjoy the same pristine beauty. Thanks.
- ag The process of obtaining permit takes too much time. Allowing only 6 people per zone may be too restrictive- try a more "fuzzy" approach, i.e. if two people try to reach a certain zone but have to cross one zone which only allows one person to stay overnight, one could for this case increase the limit to 7 people. In this way there are mostly max. 6 people per zone, but in exceptional cases a few more (1 or 2) people are allowed to simplify travel plans. Otherwise, it's hard to plan hike because only a few- often completely out of the range of each other- zones are available for parties of more than one person. Also, the whole running back and forth to get campground tickets, backcountry permits and then again a camper bus ticket is very stressful (at least it does not help to increase the positive experience "Denali").
- agd Negative- not able to reserve backcountry permit before arrival-unable to stay in original unit we wanted to (limited hikers was also hard for a group of 6-but also I feel there should be a limited number) Positive- the experience we wanted was to be the only ones with the nature-this was achieved, due to limited number of backpackers and no trails.
- ai Permit staff should do a better job explaining permit procedure. Mandatory video/orientation could be made shorter. I didn't find the permit staff to be very friendly or helpful. The bus system is a hassle to deal with and highly overpriced, which detracts from the overall park experience. You should be able to get permit and a bus ticket in same place instead of having to wait in two places. Bigger visitor center would be helpful.
- aih I felt that the permit system was useful for my Denali experience, as it resulted in a great, secluded trip. My party felt that more advice on the hiking difficulty would have been helpful.
- am Lots of Red Tape to go through before you get to enjoy your visit. But a visit enjoyed once you learn the ropes. Maybe give more information on the backcountry permit process before park arrival (i.e. website).
- am We were very happy with the entire process. We were told before we came to the park that the process would be difficult and that we would be lucky to get a permit. Actually it was very easy and the process went quickly. We would be disappointed if the park changed to require camping in specifics areas and hiking on trails. The best part about Denali is going where you want to go, setting up camp where you want to, and not seeing other people (aside from the wildlife and nature).

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- am Thought the reservation system a bit complicated to figure out but once get it, work out great. All employees pretty friendly and knowledgeable, pleasant. Strongly support NPS management to keep backcountry as backcountry. Surprised at how many cars were actually on the road. Keep the bus system- it works! Had a fabulous time-so beautiful! Video for backcountry was very helpful and informative. Good info which we put to use.
- am Like the park backcountry permit and management system the way it is. A limited amount of people in each zone is acceptable. I noted that I saw litter, but it was limited to one small piece of paper and a sock that someone had forgotten. I would say that all visitors (to the backcountry) seem to respect the park and practice minimum impact camping. The small traces of human use that I saw are inevitable, non-threatening to the environment, and did not detract from my wilderness experience. I have enjoyed backcountry travel in Denali for the past 15 summers, and hope to continue for another 15. Excellent system of backcountry management.
- am I have been visiting Denali for the past 15 years usually once or twice or more a year. I have been taking backpacking trips on the average of 2 per year with my children for the past 7 years. This has been an extremely important part of our family. But it is extremely difficult to get into the park for backpacking in certain areas (some of the best areas like units 8, 9, 10, etc.) The units fill up and the camper buses fill up before anyone form outside the Denali area can get there. My observation is that it is filled by employees of the local hotels and such. I'm glad they get an opportunity to examine the park but the rest of us who live in the state year round don't get an opportunity to experience the level of Alaska unless you take off of work and take a gamble that you can get in. There should be a place in Anchorage to reserve a unit and watch the video and get the safety briefing and get reservations for a camper bus. Also children 14 and under should not be considered in the number of individuals for each unit. The park should be promoting family groups since this experience greatly increases youngsters awareness of nature and teaches them leave no trace skills.
- amt I was very impressed with the Park management. It seemed to me a great deal of thought and careful assessment of the wilderness has gone into the rules and regulations set out for its use. I understand and appreciate that our wild places are disappearing and stringent methods must be employed to save them. While the permit process was a little daunting at first, it began to make sense after being with it a while. It should all be done in person and with no advance reservations. It's important for people to come to the park and choose their sections; even accepting that second choices can sometimes add up to an unexpected pleasure. I did feel that there were too many buses going back and forth. At times it felt like a freeway during rush hour. I am not sure what you can do about it. I cancelled a planned flyover of McKinley after completing the first part of this survey because I didn't want to contribute to the plane noise. This is something I only became aware of after being in the park. I am from California where there are beautiful National Parks (Yosemite in particular), but they have not been so carefully or thoughtfully managed, and they are now like city parks. There is very little "wilderness" left in them, and this is very sad to me. I feel that as many people as possible should be educated and come in contact with "nature", but only after they earned the right to get there. I.E.: they walked a long way, been exposed to ideas of managing wilderness, or other methods designed to weed out people who don't understand how precious and fragile it all is. I am writing a lot here, but it is because your survey has stirred up intense feelings I've always had about our Earth and it's special places. Denali has become incredibly special to me as a result of this visit. I'm very glad you're doing this survey to keep the park as positive as possible. Thanks for your efforts.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- at Most everything helped to create a positive experience. However, the logistics of obtaining a backcountry permit were ridiculous. We had to stay in a designated campground the first night because no units were available for three people, two consecutive days. We wanted to reserve ahead of time so our time (limited) together was spent as we wished. The availability of the shuttles and cost was outrageous. After spending the evening next to the RV's we waited for 7 buses in inclement weather to reach our designated section. The return trip was the same. I vote for section limitations based on groups with maximum number of members and a shuttle service that factors people already in the park into their availability equation.
- at I thought the park was great. I was disappointed that I had a backpack in a zone that wasn't that great. However it did rain the whole time so that greatly affected the hike. The shuttle buses are inconvenient, but it makes the park less like a city or Yosemite or Yellowstone so it is the greatest idea ever! All in all it was great.
- atd In 1997 I was confused by the process of getting a backcountry permit, shuttle, crowd at the backcountry desk- I didn't do my homework. I understand now and agree with the rules and regulations set in place now. Keep the park as wild as nature intended. I saw grizzlies, caribou, fox, dall sheep, in the backcountry- just me alone! What a fine thing to experience.
- b Awesome unforgettable experience (highlight of our trip) of seeing a grizzly while backpacking on the tundra and heard wolves howl!!! Frustrating experience setting up a campsite.. Couldn't find a flatspace for our tent (high, thick alders in our zone) Could see our tent from road SORRY... We did not feel that we had any other option due to time/weater/riverxin. Learned we needed better rain gear (snowed and rained during trip).
- bi The most amazing aspect of my trip to Denali was encountering a grizzly bear while in backcountry within twenty yards! Fortunately we spotted his approach well in advance which afforded us time to remember and discuss the valuable information that was provided to us prior to our excursion. Calmly we took the necessary steps while encountering a bear in back country and our experience was a highlight and not a negative incident. Thanks to the wonderful park rangers and the time they take to truly prepare visitors of the backcountry my experiences there will not soon be forgotten.
- br I was very pleased with the organization of the backcountry section of Denali, particularly the BRFC's being provided free of charge and the huge amount of pre-trip education provided. When I actually did encounter a bear and 2 cubs, I felt extremely confident about handling the situation. The rangers were inarguably helpful and knowledgeable, as were the bus drivers and other members of park staff. An excellent experience overall!
- c Thanks for providing the backpacker's cache to protect our food from the bears.
- d I think we all have ideas on how we could change the park. But the main concern should always be to keep the park as natural as possible for the wild life that live there. Changes in the park should never be about money. I seen only a little of the park and the little I seen of it I was happy with it.
- d I was really moved when I realized the fact that Denali National Park hasn't been altered since life formed on earth. Because I think it is a privilege to enjoy their nature as well as an obligation to preserve it, we should keep it as natural as possible. No new hotels, roads, campsites, etc. When offering the wilderness, the more natural it is the more beautiful it gets. Please keep up the good work.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- d Enjoyed the scenery, I do wish there were a few more developed trails to aid in getting to some areas of the backcountry even 1 or so per unit. I think that a large portion is not being enjoyed because it is too difficult to access. Would enjoy going again but would probably not make it very far off the stream corridors.
- d No new buildings, trails, or roads. Keep it wilderness, just as it is! I am counting on you guys not to let Denali become Disneyland.
- d I think the future of Denali's future plans should be to preserve the natural aspects that already exist. The experience of the visitor is not as important as the quality of life of the animals and plants that LIVE THERE. No more development inside the park: signs, trails, garbage cans, outhouses, campgrounds, shelters, etc...are all excessive and unnecessary. Minimize people and air and road traffic. Denali is the most special place I have been to in Alaska.
- d Denali is one of the few National Parks where people can truly experience wilderness and wildlife. Let's keep it that way.
- d A limited number of trails near road access may be useful but very important to limit this development and maintain "trail-less wilderness" for the majority of the park. Bad weather may be factor in number we didn't see.
- d Q28 Not opposed to trails in high use areas (right where bus drops you off, or around dangerous obstacles). Shelters should not be obvious easily seen structures if used.
- d I wish there could be better access across rivers-- At least a crude footbridge. Other than that it was the best nature experience of my life.
- d Denali is one of the most amazing parks I've ever been too. I do not think other roads should be developed in it and I think that the policies on letting few hikers should remain the same. The natural beauty of Denali should be preserved. We should not develop any more facilities for human convenience, being a backpacker is about getting away from all of that. Thanks.
- dh The Denali backcountry system is superior to any I have seen. You may want to place trails and backcountry campsites in a few sectors for inexperienced backpackers.
- dhb I love Denali and I hope it never changes. The only small change I might make is increase the numbers of campers per zone per night by just a few people. The only negative experience came at the end of the trip when we went to the road wet and tired. A few buses passed and some of the seats were empty. Is this to protect those tourists from being with wet, stinky backcountry hikers? I think this was extremely inconsiderate.
- dm Too many stops on the buses and too much noise from trucks, traffic and construction. Too many people everywhere. In the future I will pick a more remote, quieter, less touristy spot.
- dm No more roads through Denali except for those that exist. The management is perfect now and should not be made into another Yellowstone
- dt Denali has the finest backcountry I've encountered in America. I am in favor of anything that preserves the ecosystem found here. I like that here is only one dirt road into the park and I support the bus system. I hope those in charge will continue to keep impact to a minimum.
- du I didn't like the surrounding areas of the park entrance with the gift shops, RV parks, and adventure companies etc. The price for the reservation of a campground in the park was very high. The bus drivers are great!!! Is there some other weather than rain in the park.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- e Beautiful country.
- e It is nice to see wildlife in backcountry zones or where the specific animals are predominant. It would be nice to receive more info on where to select the right campsite in order for sufficient protection from inclement weather as well as minimizing impact on backcountry areas.
- ea In my opinion, the best point of Denali is the backcountry trip making opportunity. As long as people respect the environment and the wildlife they should keep this a possibility to be true.
- ed Denali is a beautiful place I like that you are very environmentally focused and are trying to protect the park from the human impact. Get rid of tourists and make it backcountry only. This would reduce impact and mean the wildlife are not just a commodity. This would mean more respect for this amazing place.
- f The number of low-flying aircraft is troublesome. Developments for tourists should be kept to minimum. The park is still beautiful and hope it remains the same for my great-grandchildren! Thanks for all your hard work.
- f I had a wonderful time, and everything was reasonable acceptable except for the air traffic. Fifteen minutes couldn't go by without us hearing an airplane or something overhead, and we were pretty far into the park. Our objective of "getting away from civilization" was therefore ruined. It was disappointing.
- f I did not like all the over flights. That was the only thing that detracted from the trip.
- f The air traffic was horrible. I lived in Alaska for 9 years previous and was so saddened to see and hear the planes. The planes were seen and heard multiple times each day. Each person in the party was dismayed by this. A substantial reduction in air traffic is needed. Backcountry trips let us get back to -tap into- our wild natural self. Implore you- please make recommendations/suggestions to reduce the air traffic over/in the park. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this study!
- f There was aircraft that flew over area 35 going to Mt. McKinley. This was disturbing to the tranquility. We were upset when a US Air Force aircraft flew over. Was this necessary? Your work is great. Go on like that.
- f Overall, the trip was enjoyable. The only negative experience was the airplane and helicopter tours on those days when the weather was clear. On two days of a six day backcountry trip, I saw planes and helicopters all day long. Very amazing.
- f Denali is our favorite National Park and we cherish the opportunity it provides to experience true wilderness. We are disheartened by the presence of so many aircraft and strongly support any initiatives to ban all air traffic over the park. Thank you for doing this research! It is greatly needed!
- f Have planes fly on the west end of the park only. Denali is the greatest park ever.
- f As mentioned earlier, the number of aircraft overflights was annoying and I suggest flight corridors on the south side of the range. I rarely encounter other backcountry travelers while overnighing in the park and doubling the number of people allowed in backcountry units would probably not be a problem.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- f The number of aircraft really took away from a wilderness experience as did the number of human tracks. Twenty-seven aircraft in one day was horrible! If people can't hike or climb into the backcountry, then they shouldn't go. Preserve this paradise!
- f Overall, NPS management is doing a great job. I would love to have fewer planes flying overhead on the rare clear days though even fairly high altitude flights are loud and sound rebounds in the valley.
- f I support the manner in which the Denali Backcountry is managed. While I would like to have had no encounters with others, I also appreciate that I am not alone in wanting to experience Denali. The single greatest negative factor in my experience was the frequency and low altitude of aircraft flying overhead: 5-10 x/day at less than 3000' AGL 1 helicopter at less than 500' AGL 1 beachcraft twin radials at less than 700' AGL Overall we enjoyed our visit very much, I do believe the management strategy in place is good. Keep it up! Nonetheless, If I do another backpack in Alaska, it will be outside the park, significantly because of aircraft.
- f Saw quite a few planes and helicopters overhead. Were somewhat distracting, yet at the same time they were somewhat of a relief since I was a first time backcountry hiker and was nervous about contacting help if needed.
- f Too many planes and helicopters overhead!!! They fly too low and makes lots of noise; disturbs backpackers and probably animals.
- f Too many planes too low too loud.
- f I felt everything is being done very well in the park. Two things I would like to see changed. A few more developed trail in the entrance area (only there). And lastly limit or not allow air traffic over the backcountry areas. It is hard to have a wilderness experience when planes and helicopters are buzzing over you.
- f Too many airplanes. I had a great time and I would like to thank the people working the backcountry permits for the friendly advice and concern for our safety as well as the animals.
- f I was quite surprised by the allowance of (commercial) planes in and over the wilderness area. Once I realized this, I was quite displeased/annoyed- it definitely detracted from the backcountry experience, as much or more than any encounter with other hikers/rangers would have. I would support a ban on commercial flights over the wilderness area-make them fly a different route, and a lot less, (or not all?)
- f Too many airplanes! They fly over again and again till your peaceful feelings you try to get is gone.
- fa Need an advanced reservation system for backcountry permits on first come first serve basis. Airplane noise is a part of the Denali experience and is necessary. The rich, movers and shakers take the planes and helicopters and also have influence in environmental and NPS policy in Washington. So hearing aircraft noise is a small price to pay for continued NP funding. Overall, backcountry program is very well managed.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- fa On trips to the backcountry desk to get permits there always seemed to be at least one group or individual camper that seemed pretty confused about the procedure. Rangers used a lot of time explaining the basic procedure and seemed rushed to help others choose the right place or answer specific questions. Overall my experiences with rangers at the park were above my expectations. The only thing that was very negative about my trips were air traffic. Everyday out in the backcountry there was noise from airplanes (small and large) and or helicopters. One sunny day in area 6, four different helicopters flew through the valley and returned. My companions and I were very disgusted to see an aircraft so close (they could have easily seen us through the windows) having to listen to it repeatedly.
- fal 1. Aircraft restrictions should specify flight corridors, altitudes and times. These should be given to backcountry travelers ahead of their permit application so they can run around it. 2. As frustrating as the permit issue process is, I think it is a good compromise. It is difficult to plan too far in advance because of changing conditions leading to closures. 3. Orientation should include desired method of disposing of human waste: bury or spread around?
- fe The darting and collaring of animals for research I strongly oppose. If researchers need more info, put on the old hikers and observe. Also would like to see and hear less or no aircraft.
- fg Too much air traffic. It is just as annoying as large groups of people would be. The number of flights and altitude of the flight paths should be restrictive with the backpackers, climbers and wildlife in mind.
- fm The only negative part of my experience was the number of airplanes I saw and heard. Other than that, I think Denali has the best management practices of any National Park I've been to (and I've been to a lot).
- fm I like the system that limited the entrance to the park, because it takes care about the nature! I hate the possibility of flying sightseeing tourists over the park! Stop the flying tourists!!! Thanks
- fm Too many airplanes. Impressive nature. Well organized system (information, permits, buses, etc.)
- fm As a nine year Denali concessionaire employee, I am a regular backcountry user. I cherish the wilderness opportunities in Denali's backcountry and strongly support current policies and use levels. Overhead flights are the greatest hindrance to my wildlife experiences. On this trip they were not much of a problem as it stormed. But on a prior trip this season I counted 52 flights during a two night trip.
- fm Overall, I was very pleased with how well the NPS manages this park. I would change very little of this management style-with one exception. The NPS has gone to all this trouble to ensure a solitary wilderness experience, but what about those damn airplanes and helicopters flying tourists up to McKinley? At one point, I observed and heard 3 aircraft at one time. I had walked 10 miles from the road to gain some solitude, only to be (almost) constantly reminded that the NPS allows tourist flights to fly all day long. Why? Why not follow the lead of the Grand Canyon National Park and go to court to stop these overflights. Those companies only care about the making a quick buck. It cheapens the Denali experience! Thanks!
- fme The area we visited seemed pristine and fragile. We hope it means that the Park's managing/lessening impact in the fragile tundra ecosystem of Denali. The air traffic seemed to be at a maximum level of tolerability and it really detracts from the wilderness experience and needs to be limited if it is on the increase. I would've liked more advice/suggestions at the visitors center about areas to go and fragile areas to avoid.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- fr I found the park rangers very helpful and a good transportation system in place. The only issue I had with the aircraft far too many. To some extent that detracted from my backcountry experience. From my experience in Maine please keep the snowmobiles out of Denali Park.
- fs The fact that you talked to me about aircraft before my backcountry experience made me notice a lot more about aircraft. Long survey.
- fs Questions about airtraffic may skew results as I listened for them on purpose, may not have noticed otherwise.
- ft 16 fixed wing and 4 helicopter overflights in 1 and 6 hour periods of hiking. This is a much larger problem than encountering other parties on the ground. Great camper bus driver! The impact of hiking on parkland has grown significantly in the past 10 years I see more signs of it.
- ft Heard far too many planes. It should be possible to make reservations and getting a permit separately. Got permit at 1:30 but could only make use of a shuttle bus at 1500. Could walk only a few hours first day. Didn't have a chance to penetrate the park far enough (always had the road in our vision). More backpacker shuttle buses in the morning! We were there (visitors center) the night before to make reservations but we were only too late for a complete backpackers instruction. So we came for nothing.
- fw This particular trip of mine into the park was short and I camped in units close to the road. Had it been a longer trip where I intended to get deeper into the wilderness I would have been a lot more disturbed by the noise of low-flying aircrafts. Furthermore, during this trip the weather was cloudy, rainy, and snowy so there were probably far fewer plane sight seeing tours than during clear weather. I feel very strongly that the park should be managed for natural wilderness qualities first and that recreational and sight seeing interests should be regulated in such a way that they do not adversely impact those natural values.
- fx I go to Denali to hike and camp in a protected wilderness realm and enjoy it as a hikers world. I had an outstanding experience with everything I expected. The only drawback was the recurrent interruption by airtraffic. I am extremely disappointed by this. If there is something I can do to change that I will.
- g Truly one of the last great places on earth, but seriously consider going on a group number rather than individual number into zones
- g Designated campsites for larger parties, 6 or more, in various areas, but you already have them. I just went for a long bike ride with an overnight stay in between... I didn't really get into the backcountry enough to reliably answer these questions.
- g Staff were very friendly and helpful- especially considering the number of people they must be dealing with. Congratulations on a very well managed park!! Visitor management was excellent.
- g I would support some amount of determining the capacity of a zone based on the number of parties as well as the number of hikers. For example, no more than 6 people or two parties. The zone I was in had all of the portion along the road closed off because of bear habitat. Thus, There were really only 2 routes possible to get to the zone to camp by evening. Not surprisingly, one of these routes had a social trail and we bumped into two other parties along this route. So maybe the party number could depend on the zone and the amount of the zone closed off.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- gm I fully support the limiting of backcountry usage in Denali. Though I was disappointed that I was unable to use "prime areas" such as Polychrome and Wonder Lake. To do so I would've had to plan a ten day trip, something time didn't allow. I oppose a lottery and phone reservation system, as that limits or destroys spontaneity- an essential ingredient to getting outdoors. Primarily, I am a roadtripper. This means I show up at National Parks unannounced and without a schedule-spontaneously. A reservation system would not allow this freedom and would force those like me to plan with a calendar and watch, greatly reducing the feeling of liberation. While backpacking, I saw no other hikers, which was extremely nice and somewhat unexpected. Having no figures or research, I am unable to provide you with an answer to the question asking for appropriate backcountry usage. It is a difficult decision to put a cap on usage. Now that I'm more familiar with the procedures. I feel I'll be able to make better plans in the future. I wholeheartedly plan to backpack in Denali again - and land a coveted permit to some prime units. My senses were overwhelmed by the amount of wilderness and it is nice to know firsthand that places like Denali exist. I grew up in Massachusetts and love the fact that Denali NP and Preserve is larger than my home state, containing only one primarily dirt road. Such a special place! Thanks for conducting this survey. Are you going to keep us participants posted of the results. I would be very interested in learning your discoveries. Happy Trails!
- h Denali is a great place and the hikers do not spoil it. Keep the non-hiking tourists in the buses.
- h Mt. Eielson Visitor Center had no place to warm up for backpackers wet clothes. Also a room for backpackers should be established.
- had I personally didn't have the skills to hike as many days as I'd have liked backcountry without trails and therefore my backcountry trip was cut short. I bet this happens to a lot of people, which is why I support giving out permits only 24 hours in advance otherwise I think people who don't know what they're in for may monopolize permits they'll never have the opportunity to use. However, I oppose creating too many trails in the backcountry, because I think this is one of the few places for people who want to and can hike without trails and I would hate for that to not be available, as it is so different from hiking with trails. Perhaps more 1-day length trails for overnights, and then leave everything else untouched would be cool, but I don't know, even that might ruin what you have in Denali
- hb The area proved to be a great hiking adventure as always. The only disagreeable part was the lack of laundry facilities for a backpacker, they seem to be a valuable type of tourist. The bear caches were useful but awkward.
- hbt Information about backcountry zones not sufficient. The shape of the backcountry zones are questionable. The bear policy outside the park is hypocritical. The bus drivers speak too much and ruin the silence.
- hit The bus driver was extremely helpful. He knew his stuff. It could be helpful if the backcountry desk matched skills of hikers to sites. There should be more descriptive pamphlets on the backcountry sites. At present there is a book which describes 5 or 6 of the units which means that hikers will know about these in advance, but not others.
- hiz It would be helpful if rangers had general information about areas and provided it, especially when asked. For example: What has been the relative depth of McKinley Bar for crossing? (knowing it can change with weather) Also, that a route is 2 solid days of difficult bushwhacking. Yes we want to "discover" but some information would be helpful for planning and choosing safety issues, endurance, etc... It might be helpful management wise to split some of the large areas into smaller ones.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- hwr When I was in Denali, the weather was terrible. My party was backpacking in conditions that I felt were very dangerous. I would have felt much safer if I had seen a ranger once in a while.
- hx We almost died in Denali, but it was cool.
- I A bit more info needs to be given to spell out the system and how to use it. Instead of saying no you have to be in the park to book a backcountry spot.
- I I would love to see coffee at Eielson. I also think people should be better warned of the weather. Even though in AK, I didn't expect to see snow at 3300' in the middle of August.
- I I did not receive any recommendation about the zone I could choose. Taking into account the limits per zone I would consider positive that staff in permit booths gave some recommendation to hikers about the possible zone.
- I I was disappointed at the lack of wildlife when compared to advertising material, and thought that hours spent looking for, reading about, and the amount of warning signs regarding the dangerous wildlife was far too great. I came to Denali to experience wild Alaska and become a part of the ecosystem, not bubble wrapped and protected from it.
- I Protecting the Denali ecosystem is most important. Convenience of access is not a priority. Backcountry rangers are not consistent in their information/advice/interpretation of rules-training needs improvement. Trails could be OK to limit impact in high volume routes. Some campsites at all campgrounds should be held out of reservation system for booking same day/next day at visitor's center.
- I More information about why particular areas are closed to entry.
- I I would like to have more information about each backcountry zone in order to select which zone to visit overnight. "The backcountry companion" does not give me enough information I want to.
- I It would be more worthwhile to have more detailed maps for each section (or groups of sections). The current map is on too large a scale to confidently orient oneself.
- I I was very disappointed to find they did not have the necessary topo maps available once I had gotten my backcountry permit, and that there was nowhere else to get them. It would have been nice if the following information was brought up to us: 1) Bus schedule would change during the time covered by our backcountry permit. 2) The opinions of the locals or lodges around Kantishna as to regulations regarding use in the surrounding zone 42. It would be nice to have some sort of day-use warming or drying shelters along the road, so that it is possible to dry gear without having to come out of the park.
- I I would support current rules/objectives; some way of getting to most popular areas would be better. Have made two trips without getting to camp in preferred areas (and cannot extend length). -Keep the backcountry pure and clean.
- I One thing that I think should have been covered in the cautionary information is care about interactions with moose. They weren't mentioned at all, which could have led to people thinking they weren't dangerous and left them unable to deal with them.
- I Excellent bus system. Reservation board and information could be made easier to understand. Use of a map and zone number not just the zone number.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- I I am impressed with the professional help. I feel the pictorial and verbal description of all areas need to be expanded on to allow campers to better assess their skills prior to entry to a specific area.
- ia BRFC's are great. Rangers at desk very nice. Instructional video was cool and useful. Might be cool to be able to call two or three days in advance to reserve backcountry permit. No campfires- where would wood come from? If wood was waiting there brought in by rangers it would be great. If there were a couple of stones for firerings- it would be fun, but not that important.
- ia I need more information about the wonderful park in travel agencies even outside of Alaska and the USA. Change the system on getting a permit or at least some help in 2nd and 3rd languages. Getting a drivers license is easier.
- ib Great trip. My biggest suggestion would be to include some info or stats on how rare bear attacks are and how seeing a bear doesn't mean that you're going to die. There was a bit too much of a fear factor induced in the prep process, that detracted from our ability to really relax and enjoy the surroundings.
- id Our group found the hiking in zones 4 and 5 extremely demanding and were not given helpful guidance from the rangers issuing the permits. I believe that Denali's backcountry could be made more accessible without destroying it's beauty as a wilderness.
- id Incredible experience. Two additional remarks. If possible I would find it interesting to have a more thorough description of the zones. In addition, because it had too many people we used no well-developed trails. Our topographic map reading is poor. Perhaps a video or cd rom can be developed and freely used to increase these important skills prior to starting the backcountry trip.
- ih I was disappointed with the descriptions of the terrain for the section we entered.
- ih 1. Consider testing hiker's knowledge before allowing them into backcountry. 2. Allow less hikers in each zone. 3. Allow no vehicles (except buses and professional photographers) more than one mile into the park. Leave the campsite further in the park to those on foot or on bike. The less vehicles, the better.
- ihba Info on river crossing and bear encounter tactics was extremely helpful and relevant. Some spaces reserved for backcountry permits would be ideal for groups with schedules/itineraries.
- im This was my first trip to Denali and it was a great experience. I liked how informative employees were about the wildlife and backpacking. Keep the park preserved so people can enjoy it for many generations.
- ir The person responsible for having USGS topographic maps available at the visitor's center failed us. We were only able to purchase 1 of 9 maps we needed. Our rangers were giving out copies but the quality was poor.
- is There is very little incentive to do this survey. Bear containers are great- Thanks!! Park rangers are too vague about different areas of the park- when come in... have no idea where to go. Perhaps list 10 or so different length, types of hikes that are popular. Brain is fried!! (Hope you could read my writing-enjoy putting the rest of these entries into the computer.)

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- it Absolutely unique and inspirational beauty to be found in the backcountry. Fortunate to see bears, pack of wolves, and moose. Too many buses. Unit 30 is awfully difficult without advice on where to camp. Video (prior to departure) failed to distinguish difference between grizzly and black bear temperament and how to react. Overall amazing place.
- iu 1. A good map- must be provided to the hikers (free of charge). 2. There should be no fee for the camper bus (if you can't reserve in advance the backcountry then it's not fair that there is a \$ fee for the bus). 3. I enjoyed it very much-thanks!
- iw No information was given to my party about the vegetations for walking conditions. The majority of our walking was done in a bog. It would have been nice to know. The weather was treacherous, it rained everyday we were in the backcountry. Yet it was a great experience, I learned things about myself and learned that I can handle bad conditions.
- iw You need to stress to all visitors to immediately attend the "Intro to Park" presentation at the visitor center, so the shuttle system and other opportunities are explained during the beginning of visit.
- iw A positive experience in all respects. However, more description of a unit's terrain and hiking conditions (re-local weather, wet/dry soil conditions, seasonal variations) should be available. Also, instead of blanket permits a questionnaire should be used to reflect an individuals backcountry experience and help the park personal recommend specific units based on difficulty level and topography.
- iw I felt that more up to date snow level/condition advisories could have been given.
- iz Excellent Experience! Permit process was good, but it would have been helpful to have an overview of backcountry areas to help narrow down choices. E.g. Tundra hikes- zones x, y, z, River walks- zones a, b, c, Park climbs- zones k, l, m etc. This survey took a considerable time to complete and I hope it is helpful. Perhaps a small token (Denali souvenir.) would be helpful in getting complete and full participation.
- m My husband and I felt that Denali was very well managed overall. Our number one concern is that wildlife and habitat are given the highest protection possible- even if this imposes strong restrictions on human use. Denali offers a rare opportunity to experience true wilderness-let's keep it that way. Thank you.
- m As a student of biology, I can tell that much effort is spent in trying to balance preserving the wilderness status of the backcountry and maintaining public access to the backcountry. I think that Denali does an excellent job of maintaining this balance in favor of keeping the backcountry a true wilderness.
- m Eielson Visitors Center was very crowded and areas surrounding were heavily impacted.
- m If wildlife and nature needs an organization like this now, let's go. But isn't it sad?
- m The park is very well managed. You never feel as though you are competing with a crowd.
- m Organizing nature does not appeal. Denali is extremely organized and I was amazed at how enjoyable it was. For the sheer number of people that use the park it is the only way. I encountered very few people on my trip and no evidence of humans (something I have never experienced before). All I can say is very good effort to all you and I hope it stays as organized as it is. I had a wonderful time. Many thanks.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- m Congratulations! The park is managed in an excellent way. You just have to do something about the weather.
- m Denali is a beautiful example of a wilderness that once existed in the whole country. My only concern is preserving it and all our national forests and parks.
- m I enjoyed my visit to Denali backcountry tremendously. I feel that it is important that it remains the unspoiled place that it is.
- m The park is very professionally run and organized.
- m The management seems to be doing a great job at a most incredible park.
- m Keep up the good work.
- m I returned to Denali every year for a backcountry experience that I can find in no other National Park in the lower 48. The lack of hikers in the backcountry or signs of man-made structures such as trails or bridges add to the challenge and appeal of this park. This park is not for the unprepared backcountry traveler, there are other parks better suited for their ability. I believe the current management are very successful in maintaining a "Wild Park". Especially the bear canister program is a model that un-natural parks like Yellowstone and Glacier should adopt. To Denali I say stick with what has worked and don't change a thing!! Thanks.
- m Keep the park wild for my children and others.
- m Make different types of zones. Heavy use zones for popular areas and for people who don't mind seeing other peoples.
- m Denali's current policy of low policing, low number of permits issued, trail, or other amenities is well suited for the seasoned backpacker. Denali's remote location and fragile terrain are well suited for this type of adventuring. It is not a family funhouse. The tourbus can serve that purpose. Given the number of opportunities and locations for the kind of solo wilderness experience I sought and obtained. Denali's land and hiker management seem well done.
- m You guys are doing an awesome job. Keep it up.
- m I was very satisfied on my trip. The bus system, capacity of hikers and campers system is good. I might not see parties more than usual, but capacity is so important to enjoy the wildlife in Denali.
- m I love the fact that Denali is complete wilderness with no trails on the campgrounds in the backcountry.
- m It is frustrating to arrive in the park with the intention of hiking in a certain area, but to find it full. However, I would suggest no change to the present system. On an extended visit like mine this is a minor issue. But for others, the ability to get a permit ahead of time would be a great benefit. A change in the present system could indeed affect my own future visits though.
- m Absolutely nothing negative was experienced other than the beginning social trail of section 16 there was no trace of other human visitations. The staff at the visitor center were beyond pleasant to prepare the necessities for backcountry. This was my first experience not running into other hiking parties while backcountry for 3 days, very memorable.
- m I think the management was great. It appears the rangers are very much in tune as to what is happening with the plants and animals in the park. Keep up the good work.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- m Campsites like Igloo Creek ought to have. Can something be done about the mosquitoes?
- m Park service management was great.
- m I am satisfied with the present backcountry management practices. The numbers of people and permit process is good. I also feel that any necessary closures to benefit critical habitat areas are well justified. Thanks and keep up the good work!
- m Thanks for a great season!
- m Don't change much, if anything.
- m The park is beautiful and I appreciate all the efforts to preserve its original beauty. I felt that backcountry camping was not a good experience, however. We were too close to the road, saw far too many others, and did not feel as though we were alone or even secluded from the rest of the world.
- m I was very satisfied with my experience. I found the park stunning and I thought the backcountry management process was smooth and very necessary. I want to go back!
- m Unit 42 and perhaps 43 should be removed for backcountry trips. Too many private residences, camping, parties, etc.
- m The best part about my trip was to experience the wilderness of the park. To be out and not see/hear people and machines is a rare and beautiful experience.
- m Considering the visitor pressure the park endures, I feel that the current management plan being implemented in the park reaches a good balance between preservation of the backcountry, while still allowing limited numbers of visitors to enjoy the area and its unique environment.
- m 1 I don't believe nor support the closing of parts of the park to those who would enjoy it's use. For example: snow machines or people who use airplanes. 2. I believe people are more important than animals and should be allowed to protect themselves against possible bear attacks. 3. I believe in a system of user's fees to pay for all uses of park.
- ma I love your backcountry management. The only change I would suggest is an advanced reservation system for 1/2 spots available. There should always be some 240 spots. The park should consider dog sled trips in winter. Keep up the good work!
- mb My Denali experience was very positive. I applaud Denali's policies regarding backcountry use and bear management. Other parks could learn from these policies and keep land pristine and their animals wild. I wasn't quite sure what to expect but experiencing the backcountry was everything I could have imagined. I feel that I learned a lot more about the wildlife and how best to coexist with it than could have otherwise have been possible. This is what makes the Denali experience so special and unique. I can't wait to come back.
- mb I really like the restrictions on the number of people in the park and the bus system. Also the treatment of animals, especially bears. People who dayhike in the park should also watch the video about bears, river crossings etc.
- md Maintain the status quo of the Park. The appeal of Denali over the national parks is the underdeveloped wilderness.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- md I have never had a more amazing trip than Denali. I am all for the way it is run. Only one road into the park with buses is the best idea I have seen for National Parks. They should all be like that. I had a great time and will be returning!
- md I have headed up to DNP for the last 3 summers, due to the fact that the park is so well preserved both by the rangers and the "type" of people that visit/use the backcountry. The main "reason" that I traveled from Iowa all the way up to Alaska (particularly Denali) is because the park is so undeveloped and without signs of man, and man's buildings. The park is tranquil as it stands now, so are the animals and wildlife within the park. In my own opinion, any more development or any more signs of man made products in the park would in itself destroy the park, and the whole concept of trying to Preserve Denali National Park as a unique refuge. I think DNP is perfect as it is!
- mdb Legal snaring and hunting of migratory wildlife in the Preserve is at odds with the Park's aims, and unnecessary given Alaska's vast hunting opportunities. Limited roads and restricted traffic are very positive and distinctive aspects of a Denali visit. I don't understand why campers are required to use bear resistant food containers, but day hikers are not. Are day hikers immune to bear interactions? Won't bears learn that scaring hikers leads to easy food? Alternatively, we campers who bring only granola a threat to bear habits? Essential that some backcountry permits remain on a first serve basis (not reservable). Fantastic well-managed park.
- mh Overall, we had an excellent experience in the backcountry and the park service did an excellent job. One criticism is that the park service should make better efforts to examine the individuals ability or experience hiking/camping and inform the individual about the strenuous conditions in Denali. I think they should stress a conservative hiking camping route rather than the more intense route, unless the individual has prior Denali experience.
- mi (+): We encountered only 2 parties on a 5-day backpacking trip. (-): Please restructure Park safety Education component. Do not play video assuming that visitors will know they are doing. Please have a ranger personally instruct groups of backpackers instead. I feel the NPS should take more responsibility for Denali Backpackers' safety education. More advanced river crossing techniques should be taught. We had to use a book! Thanks.
- ml I agree with the regulations set up at Denali and in fact feel those restrictions make a better backcountry experience- since you see fewer (if any) people. I also appreciate that you have emphasized the pack-it-out approach- and I hope other national parks will pick up on that.
- mr I feel the present management is satisfactory. I would've like to have seen at least one park ranger to let me know sometimes that there would be a trained person there.
- mr Doing a good job, enjoyed my experience and had relatively little difficulties obtain permits- They weren't necessarily my first choice but I enjoyed it all the same. Park rangers at the Visitor centers were informative and friendly.
- mt I thought the backcountry was managed quite well. The only problem I had was getting to my area at a late time -8:40- which made finding a camping place out of the view of the road quite difficult.
- mt The only truly negative aspect of this trip into the backcountry was weather, which the NPS obviously has no control over. Think the way the park is managed now is excellent. The backcountry desk has been helpful and enjoyable to work with, as have nearly all of the bus drivers we encountered up and down the road.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- mt I was very impressed with the conscious effort to preserve all aspects of Denali. I enjoyed the limited access to the park with respect to cars and RVs. National parks such as Yosemite and Yellowstone are overrun and that's a shame. Thanks.
- mt Backpacking here is awesome. Regulations are strict, but allow for an experience like no other place I have been to. Buses/transportation services were great. Visitor center needs vending machines/concessions.
- mti An additional staff member at the permit desk might speed the process. Might be able to shorten the orientation video a little. Overall, park appears very well managed. Why so much vehicle traffic besides the shuttle buses? The orientation video could be shortened. Overall the park was well managed. I wonder why there was so much traffic besides the shuttle bus.
- mu If the weather was fine, it will be one of the most beautiful parks in North America, at least! Sometimes I got the feeling that everything in park is based on money! Too many people, on the road in the park!
- mz Skipping around from area to area because the return was very frustrating. I didn't realize that crossing from one area to another without returning to the road would be so difficult (impossible). Given the travel necessary to get from the road to a "legal" campsite (in areas 12,11,10,9). My inability to spend several nights in one area precluded much real depth and punctuation. If the permit system were based on entry to an area rather the length of time you can stay, that might help.
- r The ranger could have been more helpful when we were selecting our zones.
- r Positive: The careful and sensitive manner in which the wildlife is treated. To me it seems that this is possible through the limitations of visitors. The way visitors are instructed by the information center and rangers appear to be a good possibility to prepare people for any encounters with bears. I think it's great that through all of your policies (containers for food,...) the bears in the park are kept able to live their natural lives and don't associate visitors with any source of food. Please keep going like this! I'm looking forward to returning to the park!
- r Found that park employees were extremely friendly as well as helpful.
- r Fantastic trip- One problem we encountered was one guy behind backcountry desk, not a ranger, perhaps a trainee? Not helpful in picking zones. I realize that's our responsibility, but the more knowledgeable those behind that desk, the better informed the travelers will be (planning a trip in a park so large is a bit overwhelming).
- r Very nice ranger. Shelter at sanctuary campground would be good. Good organization, backcountry.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- rf NPS Lost and Found: I've worked the front desk at McKinley Village this summer 5/18-9/19. We've had several guests lose items on the buses. Each time they've lost something I can retrieve the item before it goes to NPS. But once it goes to NPS, it seems the item is never seen again! A couple of times a DPR employee will have reported seeing and sending the item to NPS. I'll call NPS and they claim never to have seen it. Once, an NPS employee let me know she had the item in front of her, only to have a male employee tell me he didn't have it when the guest called from her home state. He refused to go look for it and said he didn't see it on "the log". He told me, "Ma'am, we deal with emergencies, here!" (Fine then please have someone else do lost and found!) I wouldn't doubt that 99% of your lost and found items guests actually attempted to claim! Ban the "Black Hole!" 2. Planes: As an experienced backpacker, I enjoyed the challenges of the Denali Wilderness area. The only downfall for us were the ubiquitous sightseeing flights. Perhaps someday the wilderness area will be off limits to sightseeing flights? (that would be nice, but those folks probably have more \$ than us backpacker type folk?) Thanks (comment #1 made by respondent's partner.)
- ri Our trip was absolutely amazing and the ranger who planned our trip, Michael Sheehan was awesome. The only negative experience was the absence of maps. Since we didn't know where we could be camping we couldn't buy maps beforehand and once we got to the ranger station they didn't have any and we were forced to use black and white photocopies which was difficult.
- ri We found that one ranger/staff member at the backcountry office was not very helpful under the auspice of "protecting the lands" I think that you can be helpful- without giving out too much information. I respect the goal of a trail-less wilderness-but books and other means of preparation only give a limited amount of information. Esp. about current river conditions-snow-mud-availability of finding places to camp etc. Most people were very helpful- in the park service style. One staff member soured the experience by answering questions by saying "you'll have to figure it out yourself". Her name was _____ although all others were more than helpful- while respecting the cause! Kudos overall!
- rim I thought the rangers at the visitor center were very precise and accurate in the information they gave and where else to teach a proper approach to wilderness and wilderness and wild without frightening working people at work. I liked the freedom and independence that you are given.
- rm We were very impressed with the rangers and the regulations that were in effect for the park. Unfortunately, we only had one night to spend as we were short on time. We plan to return for an extended backcountry visit. It is impressive that this land hasn't been touched by expensive building of trails and campsites. Keep it as wilderness as possible.
- rm The park seems to be very well managed. I was very impressed. But many staff in the main visitors' center were poorly informed and gave wrong answers to questions. _____ and another young man were very good, however.
- rs I didn't like the attitude of the rangers in the backcountry booth at the station... (cocky and unapproachable for questions) Glad to have the opportunity for a survey i.e. you are interested in our opinions. There is some ambiguity in this portion of the survey. Distinguishing objectives versus rules, etc.
- rt There was great access of information and informative rangers. Also there was a great shuttle system that reduces impact on the park.
- rt Although I can appreciate the objective of "each hiker experiencing the backcountry for himself" I disliked not receiving help from the ranger at the permit desk with respect to where to get off the bus and enter our zone (33). It was very difficult to find a way into the thick brush.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- rw I feel that the personnel at the visitor center are professional, and able to make the registration process relatively painless. It would probably be a great idea to further emphasize the quick weather changes in the park. Although my party was fairly well equipped to deal with snowfall, which surprised us, I'm sure that some would not be. The park is great and I'll be back!!
- rx The rangers did great by insisting the following of standard procedures at the visitors center. Denali was the best wild experience I had so far.
- s While obtaining a backcountry permit it was presented that this survey was mandatory. Also, I have received letters and additional booklets since I returned. I am professional and travel frequently. I did not appreciate the fact I was given very little time to complete the booklet.
- s The trip was great, but I am tired of these questionnaires.
- s The questionnaire was a big task. I hope others were as conscientious as me.
- s Acoustically speaking, there is no tranquility in Denali anymore. I hope your surveyors take the time to sort your data out well. You must get some sort of handle on the next (quantitative) number of aircraft departures daily to compare with visitors perceived experience (each day) - otherwise your study is junk. I was in the park for six days with few aircraft only because it rained heavily each day. Rain also reduced the overall numbers of backpackers and dayhikers... so maybe you should compare weather with some of these other factors. Strongly oppose reservation system, lottery system and permits by perceived degree of skill and ability. Denali's present system is sound and needs to be preserved. If you try to reduce this park to the least common denominator by providing "additions" you're going to lose what this park really has to offer- an easily accessible yet relatively pristine wild area. The park needs no more improvements. Lets keep Denali from becoming a 6 million acre eco-Disneyland theme park... NPS has quite enough of them already.
- s Oh my god! (so much paper work) God save the queen!
- s The questions in the survey were interesting and OK. But we couldn't understand the sense of the question about ethnicity with two possibilities to the answer. Aren't there much more ethnicities?
- sa You didn't give very good information on what this survey is used for and what the decisions will be made from it. You should give two days to apply for a permit just like a bus service.
- sh We had a shorter and more difficult experience than we intended as a result of 4 days of rain. Thus this survey may reflect our disappointment.
- smu Be careful about wasting paper. Wilds are supposed to be wild and not handicapped friendly or catering only to the rich. The fees should be voluntary.
- sx Denali, for me was one of the most amazing experiences I have had the opportunity to enjoy. I think however, that this survey could be shorter and more to the point.
- t Didn't see the Denali, but great organization of bus shuttle and drivers.
- t I love the use of buses. Yellowstone has become a tragedy.
- t We really like the informative shuttle drivers. We were displeased with having to pay for the shuttle twice because we left the park for one night. I am glad we did not have to sit around waiting for a permit.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- t My only suggestion might be smaller tour buses which stop more frequently, but still retain the express camper buses.
- t It should be expressed that although you can catch any bus, there may not be room and you can end up waiting a long time (90 minutes). Also that the pack counts as a second seat and may prevent one from getting on. There appeared to be different interpretations of the rules for riding. Knowing this in advance and have all drivers following the same guidelines would help. That aside, the park is great. It was a memorable trip.
- t Ability to reserve bus space ahead of time was very helpful. We navigated bus/permit process well because of wife's familiarity with Denali National Park. However, this process could be very confusing for a newcomer. Number of overflights was terrible! Over 20 one day and some were around 9pm. Made us feel we were in a bad WW2 movie being dive-bombed- This was the one disappointing aspect of our wilderness experience.
- t Very good organization! Very fine to be able to go by car to Savage River also good that no further (Bus shuttle very good). I want more smaller tent places (campgrounds) just for a 1 person tent for example at Riley Creek- for visitors who comes by train or bus or backpack (ex.. for the first night. A big place in forest (Grass, no gravel) only for tents (no cars, or RV).
- t Denali was amazing. I've never seen anything so beautiful. I am actually planning to come to college at APU in Anchorage next fall and plan on being back in Denali. My sister and I love to hike and camp so this was an amazing opportunity. The only problem was on the trip back we were told we could come on the road and be picked up by a camper bus but we walked for an hour and half seeing buses go the opposite way. We were finally picked up by a truck. Nonetheless, it was amazing. Thanks.
- t Please change the buses with the better ones.
- t Car camping was very limited, difficult to obtain. Access to shuttles at park entrance seems as if it could be streamlined.
- t Too much traffic on the road. Shuttle bus non day use too expensive. Bearbox should have loop for straps.
- t I tremendously like the camper bus service. I also find the rangers at the backcountry desk at the park entrance and at Eielson v.c. to be very knowledgeable, friendly and helpful.
- t RV's should not be let into the park past the Savage River bridge it is unfair to all of the other visitors of the park.
- t There are very few eastbound vts (green buses). The earliest eastbound bus at sanctuary campground leaves at 11:00 am, and it all the way from Wonder Lake. Maybe an EB bus could congregate at Eielson? Or leave Wonder Lake earlier?
- t Overall, there were too many tourists and too many buses. The aircraft was *not* the problem but the number of buses most certainly was.
- te I love the bus system in Denali. Visitor access needs to be restricted for the benefit of the Denali wilderness. Maintaining wilderness areas for the future is very important and should be a National Priority. Thanks for asking our opinion about these matters!

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- ti I took the camper bus out to Wonder Lake, and then caught another green bus (non-camper) back to my drop off point, which was supposed to be Grassy Pass, to enter zone 34. After hiking for several hours in terrain that did not match up with my map, I got my camp. Next morning, I gained elevation and realized from the topography that the bus had dropped me about 3.5 miles too far to the west. The bus drivers drive that road everyday. Every driver of a green bus should have to know that road well, so that someone can point to a spot on the road on the map and actually get dropped off there.
- ti We came in late one night to Wonder Lake and had a very difficult time finding a campsite since there are no campsite markers along the main path. At 10pm who wants to walk through everybody's campsites to find one for yourself. Put markers along the path! Also shuttle service is inadequate. We had to wait for hours to catch a bus on our way out of the park in wet clothes. Also at Wonder Lake people are told (via notes on picnic tables) where to store food, but it is not clear where one should cook food. Please make these signs more clear.
- ti Too many tour buses! All (from what I saw) negative impact was due to the people from these buses. The tour bus/RV should also go through an introductory/informative program similar to backcountry hikers. This is an all too familiar sight through national parks. Please tell them to clean up after themselves and respect the park signs.
- tm There were few camper buses and most green buses were full. It took us 1.5 hours before we could find space on a bus from zone 11. Great way of managing a national park.
- tm I think NPS is doing a good job of managing Denali, considering the high demand for tourist concessions here. Other parks would be well advised to consider a similar shuttle system. I think it greatly reduces impact and enhances wildlife enjoyment opportunities. I violently oppose increased concessions in the park, however. It already requires a great deal of work to get away from the crowds along the roadway, and increasing trails, picnic tables, etc.. would destroy all opportunity for the solitude, nature observance, and maintaining an undisturbed wildlife habitat in this incredible preserve. P.S. We did not come here, as the survey implies, to people watch!
- tm Well managed and knowledgeable bus drivers. Good idea to keep private cars out of the park. Great opportunity to watch wildlife from the bus. We had a great time.
- tw Had a great trip, rained on us everyday, but still loved it. Great bus system, could have seen less car/motorhome traffic on the road through Denali; wasn't able to see the mountain, maybe next time. I'll be back.
- tx The magnificent experience was the opportunity to observe the diverse wildlife from the hiker bus. Due to extremely wet and cold weather we ended our backcountry experience one day early and rode the bus further along the road and back out. I agree with no other traffic on roads and the hiker bus was perfect to interact with people of similar respect for Denali.
- tx Great overall experience! Better information about road closures and earlier transportation to warm buses would have made the experience even better.
- u The bus is pretty expensive. If the purpose of the bus system is to protect the environment, you shouldn't make a business about it. You should just cover the costs of running the bus system. That because you are forcing the people to take the buses if they want to go there. At least give discount for students and under 25 years old people.
- u Bus fee too high.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- uat Overall a great trip, but we felt it could be "shared" with a few others, in hopes that we might get our choice zone that might, which we did not get this trip (wanted 20; took 5 and 6); Bus reservations should not be subject to \$6 change fee, but on a space available basis for changes (b.c. zone and correct camper bus and campground space to start trip all lead to a very extensive schedule one must piece together); campground cancellations should be announced (e.g. we wanted Wonder Lake camp but closed/full then met party that got 2 nights at Wonder Lake after our inquiry); Evening camper bus was 12 minutes early causing us to miss our evening bus "tour" : Bus driver next day told us it "was a hassle" to drop us off 1 mile up road.
- uf The buses were very expensive! Please stop or not as many overflights!
- v I want to come back to Denali National Park
- vw Denali lived up to my dreams even if it rained and snowed the whole trip. Denali is the holy grail of hiking destinations in this country and it's been a dream of mine to go there. My friend complained the whole time, but I loved every minute and can't wait to return.
- w The weather was horrible when we camped!!!! You should rent raincoats since it rains so much!
- w The weather was rather interesting. 6 days out of 8 with heavy rain, but it added to the experience of a fantastic trip.
- w It rains a lot. It is the most time I spent in my tent.
- w Except for the weather I really enjoyed my stay in Denali and definitely will come back.
- w Fall temperature changes were dramatic.
- w Loved the park, except the never-ending rain during our stay. Overall, we believe your management policies make a lot of sense.
- w Please do something about the weather, and make a sunshine park policy.
- w We had a backcountry permit for 3 nights but didn't camp in the backcountry at all because of the weather. Rain/snow are not enjoyable conditions. Would have been a lot better if the weather was nicer. The last day we couldn't even get to our site because the buses weren't going in that far, but we weren't prepared for snow anyhow so we got out of Denali and saw other parts of Alaska.
- w Lack of enjoyment was caused by consistent rain. We cut short a 5 night trip after 2 nights. As a lack of bad weather is an important factor to us in backcountry trips, I did not like having to reserve backcountry camp zones in advance. On realizing the high popularity of the park, I accepted that there is little choice. The rain never stopped anyway. We like to see wilderness scenery, so without the reservation system, we probably would not have started a backcountry trip in the rain. The existence of the system caused us to make reservations we did not use. (We did cancel as soon as we could)
- w Because of the amount of rain and inclement weather it would be nice to have a sheltered area near the parking lot to pack and prepare for the backcountry trip.
- wr I hiked Denali alone. After the summer had ended and serious snow began. Therefore, being alone-24 hours a day-felt somewhat unsafe, as it would take forever to find me, should I break a leg. Realizing the best way to see wildlife was from the bus was disappointing.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- ws It is interesting that weather is an ignored factor for the part of the survey concerning aircraft. Denali was wonderful in the sun, rain, hail, and snow.
- wx We had a great trip. Less rain and less bushwhacking would have been nice... We were extremely pleased with the amount of wildlife we saw. Beautiful place!!!
- x Denali is an awesome place.
- x I had an excellent trip.
- x Your country is one of the most beautiful countries I've ever seen. I enjoyed time spending at Denali. I really had a great time and do not remember anything I should have complained about. Hopefully I'll have another opportunity to return to this place.
- x I had a wonderful time and plan to be back soon.
- x I really enjoyed backpacking in Denali! It was a great experience.
- x Great place to be! Thank you! To Denali for all the good positive energy I brought back with me!
- x We had an amazing time. Eight days was not enough time to enjoy the power of nature and all the wild life.
- x All went well and we thoroughly enjoyed our stay. "The Mt. Denali" was out!
- x Do not change it. I liked the way it is.
- x We enjoyed our Denali experience. Look forward to doing it again.
- xb It was an interesting experience. I believe that I been better prepared for the never ending rain (better equipment, different equipment) and the encounter with bears (we had 3) I think I would have enjoyed myself more. I think I would like to return in future, better prepared with lessons learned!
- xm I had a great overall experience. I thought it was managed well. My only comment would be for me to bring my dog. I know not everyone should be allowed to bring dogs but all national parks should have a field test so that responsible owners can be rewarded allowed to bring their pets.
- xm Overall, my Denali backcountry experience was a life changing opportunity which was realized. You are doing a great job, so keep it up.

Comments on Specific Questions in Mail Survey

- Q2 I lived in park.
- Q3 Do you mean one permit per zone? Or per trip? Or per night? Clarify the question.
- Q4 Summer employee.
- Q8 They should keep cars out of Denali because of the gas fumes. It smells bad for the environment.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- Q9 Did not see other hiking parties.
- Q10 They were very friendly.
- Q11 a Went directly to ridges and out of sight.
- Q12 The number of parties did not matter so long as they were respectful of the environment and space of others.
- I would like to see no people on a one night trip or see one or two if there for more nights.
- Q14 I saw a piece of sheet metal (about 5 square feet in area) laying in the ground. It was apparently covering something. I did not disturb it. Otherwise, I saw no evidence of human use. This metal did bother me somewhat.
- Packet of lolloes was found--obviously accidentally dropped (did not bother me at all) not litter!! As such.
- Q17 b Too many buses packed with tourons.
- Proximity to road and number of buses seen and heard in the distance.
- Didn't see other people, but lots of footprints and knew we were close to a campground.
- Ability to see road from a long distance and we heard the buses even when out of site of road and three miles away!
- Number of buses on road.
- Q18 More information on the type of hiking in one area.
- Q18 a I was exhausted and frazzled by frenzied bus, backcountry permit, and campgrounds before others took our chosen zones. It took two and a half hours for the whole show. That is too long.
- Helpful but took a long time
- Q18 b Dropped me off at the wrong spot.
- Buses back to Visitor Center overcrowded.
- Except camper bus was late.
- Very crowded once new schedule came out (had to wait long time to get picked up on way out-buses were full.
- Q18 e Video did not distinguish between brown bears and black bears.
- Too much info on the video which should be optional.
- We needed a zone map and they were unavailable.
- Seemed like someone was always looking over my shoulder. Lack of independent thought.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

Who the hell would feed a bear anyway?

Video needs to be updated and clearer.

No info on moose.

Q18f Drags on...

Q19 It rained. My parka leaked. I became hypothermic. I lived.

It would have been better if the weather were better.

Q20b That is a pain in the bumb!

Q20h I thought fires were allowed in certain backcountry areas.

Q21 a 6-8 max so 3-4 hiking groups like if the max number was 6 for a zone and you and 2 friends wanted to go to zone x but there were only 2 spots left then they say ok sure then close the zone rather than say well 2 can camp there but one of you has to go 5 zones away because that's all there's room for. If you get to 6 fine close it but if 1 maybe 2 more for a group want to go let them!

I didn't really have any idea what an ideal number is for unit usage. I would have liked to have been able to get a permit for a prized unit without having to take a 10 day trip, something time did not allow. I oppose a lottery and phone reservation system, as that limits or destroys spontaneity- an essential ingredient to getting outdoors. Primarily, I am a road tripper. This means I show up at a National Park unannounced and without a schedule - spontaneously. A reservation system would not allow this freedom and would force those like me to plan with a calendar and watch, greatly reducing the feeling of liberation. While backpacking I saw no other hikers, which was extremely nice and unexpected. Having no figures or research, I am unable to answer the question asking for appropriate backcountry usage. It is a difficult decision to put a cap on usage. Now that I am more familiar with the procedures I feel I'll be able to make better plans in the future. I wholeheartedly plan to backpack in Denali again and land a coveted permit to some prime units. My senses were overwhelmed by the amount of wilderness and it is nice to know firsthand that places like Denali exist. I grew up in Massachusetts and love the fact that Denali National Park and Preserve is larger than my home state, containing only one, primarily dirt, road. Such a special place! Thanks for conducting this survey. Are you going to keep us participants posted of the results. I would be very interested in learning of your discoveries. Happy Trails!

It should be more dependant on topography and vegetation in a zone.

I understand the policy and I think it is great, but it is a bummer when you get stuck with a zone that isn't the best.

Q24 No maps were available, and had to use photocopy.

The weather should be expected to alter plan.

I was traveling in a group of four which made it difficult to find open zones on our desired nights.

Safety comes first. Depends on source of fuel. Overkill.

Q24 c This is not true. If you are going several places, you can book in advance.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- Need to be in Park.
- Q24 de Stupid questions.
- If it is snowing and visibility is low and the other zone can't be reached then it's ok to break the permit.
- Q24 def If some "flexibility" is allowed for "error", necessary changes
- Q24 g They get new instructions on how to behave.
- Q24 i It is very difficult in zone 9.
- Some areas are hard to be hidden from the road.
- Q24 l More info needed.
- Advisories should be adequate.
- Maybe there could be warnings.
- Q24 m Limit maximum number per hiking parties.
- Q25 a The party size should be set by the number allowed in the zone.
- Backcountry in this area was something I had never experienced before and made a very enjoyable and memorable trip. My only complaint about the trip was that there was no way you could "know" what to expect in the different zones. But, that is also one of the aspects that made this trip great. Keep the areas a preserve so when I come back, I can enjoy the same pristine beauty.
- Depends on party's backcountry ethics.
- But there should be a strong suggestion to keep them between 2-3.
- ? Not bigger than now. (60 buses a day!!!)
- The individual zone capacity.
- Party size greater than 6 may be allowed in a few designated zones only.
- Q26 c No more than one week.
- Maybe 2 out of 6 spots per region by reservation.
- For travelers without limited time this would be useful.
- Q26 d Depends on level of expertise expected.
- Keep it open to all; hiking is not a club, too many people know how to bullshit anyway.

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- Did not answer as the question is not really clear enough. I agree that unprepared (both with experience and gear) Hikers should not be allowed in some areas during certain times of the year.
- Q26 e Per person or party.
- Cost 3 of us \$55 for one night.
- Do you need more money?
- Fee could be higher.
- Q27 a Depends on length, where, number of individuals in party.
- Q27 c The rangers need to make random checks to ensure low impact camping is being done.
- Q27 d I think rangers should keep an eye on hikers for evaluation, but I wouldn't want to see them everywhere.
- The patrols of rangers should be on a daily basis if not on foot, then by air. This is to keep an eye on poachers, miners, etc.
- I like present random system.
- In other words there is a chance you will encounter a ranger.
- "Encounters" with park rangers can be beneficial with suggestions and other knowledge and are not always a bad thing.
- The number of times park rangers should be seen should be independent of hikers preference. Park rangers' actions should depend on maintaining backcountry sufficiently enough to ensure proper preservation of Denali.
- When being instructed about park rules at V.C.
- Are we turning into a "police state"? Better to have unwritten laws that respect nature rather than enforcement.
- Q28 Perhaps very limited extent.
- I traveled all the way to Alaska to do backcountry camping. If I wanted to camp in a "site" I'd just drive down the road. Keep the backcountry areas backcountry but having the few campgrounds existing is all right,
- There are enough interpretive signs and food caches currently.
- Limited amount.
- This is backcountry not an amusement park or campground.
- Limit old people tours!

Appendix L: Visitor Comments from the Mail Survey

- NB- Through bushbashing or on the side of a cliff, people will follow these.- And I suspect so would the rangers if the time required it.
- Could use these in some places, but still maintain wilderness untouched in others so you can choose.
- Q28 a Developed trails would be good for beginners, but overall a trail-less wilderness is most appealing.
- In high traffic areas only.
- Only in certain zones with lots of brush.
- Some places they are needed.
- Q28 ab In some places.
- Q28 abe I oppose these unless they are necessary for less impact for humans on the tundra.
- Q28 d Emergency shelters.
- Q28 f Where do you get wood?
- Q28 g Only on big rivers.
- A small wooden foot bridge for safety reasons.
- Q28 i What are the bear proof containers for? Why would we need caches as they're working with no casualties.
- Stationary garbage cans opposed to hiking canisters is what I strongly agree with.
- Packable bear food caches are great.
- Portable containers seem like a good solution.
- Carry containers are better.
- No, people will start camping near and the area will get worn.
- Note BRFC's work great! No need for caches.
- Q29 k Limit old person bus tours and airtours. Cut out the damn noise.
- Q29 l This is a stupid question.
- Q36 Should have mixed race option (or other write in).

Appendix M: Stated Choice Survey

OMB Approval #1024-0224 (NPS00-020)
Expiration Date: 03/31/01

Denali National Park Backcountry Visitor Survey



Appendix M: Stated Choice Survey

Detailed Instructions/Example Question

Backcountry experiences in Denali National Park can be influenced by the resource conditions experienced (for example, the amount of human impact at camping sites), the social conditions experienced (for example, the number of other groups encountered), and the management conditions imposed (for example, the number of backcountry permits issued). Decisions about how to manage the backcountry in Denali involve potential tradeoffs among these conditions. For example, the number of backcountry permits issued could be increased to allow more public access, but this might result in more resource impacts and encounters among groups. Conversely, reducing the number of backcountry permits issued might reduce resource impacts and encounters among groups, but would allow fewer people to enjoy the backcountry.

To help guide decisions about backcountry management in Denali, we would like to know how you feel about potential tradeoffs among backcountry conditions. We would like you to answer a series of questions that deal with such tradeoffs. Each question describes two backcountry settings. For each question, we would like to know which backcountry setting you would prefer in Denali National Park. We would also like to know how strongly you would prefer the backcountry setting you choose.

Please turn to the next page to view an example of how a respondent might complete a question.

EXAMPLE

Backcountry Setting A	Backcountry Setting B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encounter 0 other groups per day while hiking. • Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups <i>most</i> nights. • Hiking is along intermittent, animal-like trails. • Camping sites have <i>some</i> signs of human use – light vegetation damage, a few moved rocks. • Required to camp at <i>designated sites</i>. • Only a minority of visitors are able to get a backcountry permit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encounter up to 2 other groups per day while hiking. • Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups a <i>minority</i> of nights. • Hiking is along continuous, <i>single track</i> trails developed from prior human use • Camping sites have <i>extensive</i> signs of human use – bare soil, many rocks moved for wind protection and cooking. • Allowed to camp in <i>any zone on any night</i>. • Most visitors are able to get a backcountry permit for their <i>preferred</i> trip.

PLEASE CIRCLE <u>ONE</u> NUMBER									
5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;">4</div>	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Prefer A		Moderately Prefer A		Moderately Prefer B		Strongly Prefer B			

By circling the number 4 on the left side of the scale in this example, the respondent indicated that he/she strongly prefers backcountry setting A to backcountry setting B.

Appendix M: Stated Choice Survey

For each of the following questions:

Circle one number on the left side of the scale from 1 (moderately prefer backcountry setting A) to 5 (strongly prefer backcountry setting A) if you prefer backcountry setting A to backcountry setting B.

OR

Circle one number on the right side of the scale from 1 (moderately prefer backcountry setting B) to 5 (strongly prefer backcountry setting B) if you prefer backcountry setting B to backcountry setting A.

Compare only the two backcountry settings presented in the question. Please do not compare backcountry settings in one question to backcountry settings in a different question.

Please turn to the next page to begin the questionnaire.

Appendix M: Stated Choice Survey

1.

Backcountry Setting A

- Encounter 0 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups *all* nights.
- Hiking is along continuous trails with *multiple tracks* developed from prior human use.
- Camping sites have *some* signs of human use – light vegetation damage, a few moved rocks.
- Required to camp in *specified zones*.
- Most visitors are able to get a backcountry permit for their *preferred* trip.

Backcountry Setting B

- Encounter 0 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups *most* nights.
- Hiking is along continuous trails with *multiple tracks* developed from prior human use.
- Camping sites have *some* signs of human use – light vegetation damage, a few moved rocks.
- Allowed to camp in *any zone on any night*.
- Most visitors are able to get a backcountry permit for at least their *second choice* trip.

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER

5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5

Strongly
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer B

Strongly
Prefer B

Appendix M: Stated Choice Survey

2.

Backcountry Setting A

- Encounter up to 2 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups *all* nights.
- Hiking is along intermittent, animal-like trails.
- Camping sites have *little or no* signs of human use.
- Required to camp at *designated sites*.
- Most visitors are able to get a backcountry permit for their *preferred* trip

Backcountry Setting B

- Encounter 0 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups *all* nights.
- Hiking is along intermittent, animal-like trails.
- Camping sites have *extensive* signs of human use – bare soil, many rocks moved for wind protection and cooking
- Allowed to camp in *any zone on any night*.
- Only a minority of visitors are able to get a backcountry permit.

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER

5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5

Strongly
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer B

Strongly
Prefer B

Appendix M: Stated Choice Survey

3.

Backcountry Setting A

- Encounter up to 4 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups *all* nights.
- Hiking is along continuous trails with *multiple tracks* developed from prior human use.
- Camping sites have *extensive* signs of human use – bare soil, many rocks moved for wind protection and cooking.
- Required to camp at *designated sites*.
- Most visitors are able to get a backcountry permit for their *preferred* trip

Backcountry Setting B

- Encounter up to 4 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups a *minority* of nights.
- Hiking is along intermittent, animal-like trails.
- Camping sites have *little or no* signs of human use.
- Required to camp in *specified zones*.
- Most visitors are able to get a backcountry permit for at least their *second choice* trip.

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER

5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Prefer A			Moderately Prefer A		Moderately Prefer B			Strongly Prefer B	

Appendix M: Stated Choice Survey

4.

Backcountry Setting A

- Encounter up to 2 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups *most* nights.
- Hiking is along continuous, *single track* trails developed from prior human use.
- Camping sites have *extensive* signs of human use – bare soil, many rocks moved for wind protection and cooking.
- Allowed to camp in *any zone on any night*.
- Only a minority of visitors are able to get a backcountry permit.

Backcountry Setting B

- Encounter up to 2 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups *all* nights.
- Hiking is along intermittent, animal-like trails.
- Camping sites have *little or no* signs of human use.
- Required to camp in *specified zones*.
- Only a minority of visitors are able to get a backcountry permit

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER

5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5

Strongly
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer B

Strongly
Prefer B

Appendix M: Stated Choice Survey

5.

Backcountry Setting A

- Encounter 0 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups *most* nights.
- Hiking is along continuous, *single track* trails developed from prior human use.
- Camping sites have *little or no* signs of human use.
- Required to camp in *specified* zones.
- Only a minority of visitors are able to get a backcountry permit.

Backcountry Setting B

- Encounter 0 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups *most* nights.
- Hiking is along continuous, *single track* trails developed from prior human use.
- Camping sites have *extensive* signs of human use – bare soil, many rocks moved for wind protection and cooking.
- Required to camp at *designated* sites.
- Only a minority of visitors are able to get a backcountry permit.

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER

5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5

Strongly
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer B

Strongly
Prefer B

Appendix M: Stated Choice Survey

6.

Backcountry Setting A

- Encounter up to 4 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups *most* nights.
- Hiking is along continuous trails with *multiple tracks* developed from prior human use.
- Camping sites have *some* signs of human use – light vegetation damage, a few moved rocks.
- Required to camp in *specified zones*.
- Only a minority of visitors are able to get a backcountry permit.

Backcountry Setting B

- Encounter up to 2 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups a *minority* of nights.
- Hiking is along continuous, *single track* trails developed from prior human use.
- Camping sites have *some* signs of human use – light vegetation damage, a few moved rocks.
- Required to camp in *specified zones*.
- Most visitors are able to get a backcountry permit for their *preferred* trip.

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER

5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5

Strongly
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer B

Strongly
Prefer B

Appendix M: Stated Choice Survey

7.

Backcountry Setting A

- Encounter up to 4 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups a *minority* of nights.
- Hiking is along intermittent, animal-like trails.
- Camping sites have *little or no* signs of human use.
- Required to camp at *designated sites*.
- Most visitors are able to get a backcountry permit for at least their *second choice* trip.

Backcountry Setting B

- Encounter up to 4 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups a *minority* of nights.
- Hiking is along continuous, *single track* trails developed from prior human use.
- Camping sites have *extensive* signs of human use – bare soil, many rocks moved for wind protection and cooking.
- Required to camp at *designated sites*.
- Most visitors are able to get a backcountry permit for their *preferred* trip.

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER

5

4

3

2

1

1

2

3

4

5

Strongly
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer B

Strongly
Prefer B

Appendix M: Stated Choice Survey

8.

Backcountry Setting A

- Encounter 0 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups a *minority* of nights.
- Hiking is along continuous, *single track* trails developed from prior human use.
- Camping sites have *extensive* signs of human use – bare soil, many rocks moved for wind protection and cooking.
- Allowed to camp in *any zone on any night*.
- Most visitors are able to get a backcountry permit for at least their *second choice* trip.

Backcountry Setting B

- Encounter up to 4 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups *most* nights.
- Hiking is along continuous trails with *multiple tracks* developed from prior human use.
- Camping sites have *little or no* signs of human use.
- Required to camp at *designated sites*.
- Most visitors are able to get a backcountry permit for at least their *second choice* trip.

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER

5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5

Strongly
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer B

Strongly
Prefer B

Appendix M: Stated Choice Survey

9.

Backcountry Setting A

- Encounter up to 2 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups a *minority* of nights.
- Hiking is along intermittent, animal-like trails.
- Camping sites have *some* signs of human use – light vegetation damage, a few moved rocks.
- Allowed to camp in *any zone on any night*.
- Most visitors are able to get a backcountry permit for at least their *second choice* trip.

Backcountry Setting B

- Encounter up to 2 other groups per day while hiking.
- Able to camp out of sight and sound of other groups *all* nights.
- Hiking is along continuous trails with *multiple tracks* developed from prior human use.
- Camping sites have *some* signs of human use – light vegetation damage, a few moved rocks.
- Allowed to camp in *any zone on any night*.
- Most visitors are able to get a backcountry permit for their *preferred* trip.

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER

5 4 3 2 1 1 2 3 4 5

Strongly
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer A

Moderately
Prefer B

Strongly
Prefer B



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural and cultural resources. This includes fostering wise use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environment and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The department also promotes the goals of the Take Pride in America campaign by encouraging stewardship and citizen responsibility for the public lands and promoting citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under US administration.

Technical Report NPS/CCSOUW/NRTR-2002-04
NPS D-318, April 2002